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*Legislative Assembly*

# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

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Thursday, March 18, 1976

Evening Session

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Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe  
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

## SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES (concluded)

On vote 2602:

**Mr. Chairman:** Order, please. When the committee rose at 6 p.m. we were still dealing with vote 2602.

**Mr. Kennedy:** There were more than three NDP and three Liberals here too.

**Mr. Chairman:** Does the minister wish to speak before the hon. member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden)?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Chairman, just in response to the member from Peterborough (Ms. Sandeman).

**Mr. McClellan:** Could you wait until she returns, by any chance?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I had some information, and I thought I might provide it—now or later, it doesn't matter.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Put it in Hansard.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. member for Beaches-Woodbine.

**Ms. Bryden:** I just have one question to ask the minister, so it may not take very long. It is with regard to mothers on family benefits. After the minister made his proposal that they should go out to work, I think he has been backtracking, as to whether he meant all mothers; whether ones with several young children would be required to go back to work or whether he recognized that mothers in that category perhaps had a full-time job at home. I am not clear whether he felt they did; and also, whether he would take into account the availability of subsidized day care; the availability of lunch hour programmes; after 4 p.m. programmes and so on.

But assuming that he would and that mothers with small children—two or three

children and without adequate facilities—would be permitted to keep on family benefits, what I would like to ask him, in the interest of men's lib, is would he also consider a father, who is a single parent and has two or three children in the home, would he consider him eligible for family benefits?

I have a case in my constituency of a father who lost his wife last July and there are children four, seven and nine. He would like to stay home and look after those children. He has tried homemakers and it has been unsatisfactory—so unsatisfactory that he himself became ill from depression and headaches worrying about his children. He has applied to welfare to be able to stay home with his children instead of going back to his job after he finished his sick leave from unemployment insurance. The welfare agency has refused him.

I would like to know if he would be accepted as eligible for family benefits in order that he may look after those children in the home?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** May I say initially, just in clarification, Mr. Chairman, there is no question of belittling or demeaning in any way a woman's household duties. I think it is admirable for a housewife to be at home and to attend to those duties; and it is not an easy job, it is a tough job. I think if there are any unsung heroines, they are the mothers who do stay at home and raise their families. I know they don't get enough credit, and there has never been any suggestion on my part that we disturb in any way that family unit. I want to clarify that; and that's not backtracking. I'm saying what I have said many times.

**Mr. Haggerty:** That is a switch. You know it is a switch.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** That's no switch, I will tell you. In terms of mothers who have child-rearing responsibilities — and I will repeat again as I have so frequently — there was never any suggestion that mothers with child-rearing responsibilities be separated from their children in order to ensure that they are in the work force.



Now as to the point the member raised, as you know, in the past where we have had difficult problems—where there is a single male, say, who has children and we may encounter some unusual difficulties—we have handled that by order in council. I think there probably would have been half a dozen passed here.

There was some change not long ago which enabled a male person to receive general welfare assistance on a temporary basis under certain circumstances. If I am not mistaken, those cases must be reviewed within six months. There is that regulation there now. If there is any rejection—and you have mentioned a specific case—then that's the type of case that could be appealed to the review board.

**Ms. Bryden:** Mr. Minister, may I ask, then, is there one policy for male single parents and another for female single parents? Apparently the male ones have to be dealt with by order in council?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I was saying it has been customary to deal with them by order in council. There was a change in regulation to obviate the need to go through order in council so that it is done on a discretionary basis at the municipal level. That inherence is at the discretion of the local welfare administrator, and if the applicant is not satisfied with that ruling, there is an appeal procedure.

**Ms. Bryden:** Mr. Minister, if a person now applies for family benefits, would it still be of a discretionary nature or would the person be treated the same way as a woman with the same number of children?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** No, there still is a distinction. There has been no attempt to make it similar for men and women. In other words, there isn't the same opportunity for a male with children to qualify for family benefits as there is for the female, so there is still that distinction.

**Ms. Bryden:** Can you justify this, Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I suppose it is a matter of philosophy, to some degree. Should we encourage fathers to stay home with their children, or when their children are in school, and to look after the household duties, or might it be better to have the father gainfully employed and obtain the necessary day-care facilities or satisfy the household needs in some other way? We can argue this. It hasn't been the policy of this government to

encourage the husband to stay at home with the children.

There are special circumstances, of course, where there isn't any alternative. There may be a difficult child or the child may be disabled, either physically or mentally in some way, and emotionally involved to a degree. Then it could make good sense for the father to be with those children at home—certainly for a period of time—because he may not be able to get any satisfactory alternative. I think that's the type of situation you have to deal with individually. The regulation was changed to accommodate that situation but not to make it universal on a permanent basis.

**Mr. McClellan:** Mr. Chairman, there are just a few points I wanted to try and raise with the minister, and I'll try to avoid being quite so pugnacious in this session. I was wanting to know whether the ministry or the minister have any plans to rationalize some of the longstanding discrepancies between various benefit levels, in the different forms and categories of social assistance paid to people in need in this province, people on general welfare assistance, people on family benefits.

Let's focus on the distinction between the so-called permanently unemployable and the disabled in the family benefits programmes. There appears to be no coherent distinction by virtue of definition, and yet there's a substantial difference in the rate of benefits paid as between permanently unemployable and the disabled. I understand as well, from looking at the March registration, that there are people on general welfare assistance who could probably be considered to be in the same physical condition, although they may be awaiting a transfer.

Nevertheless, we have a continued kind of hodge-podge of inequity in terms of benefit payment levels, and I wonder whether the ministry has plans to try and rationalize these discrepancies. That may, in fact, lead into a broader discussion about long-term changes in income security legislation that we may not want to get into too deeply here, but I would appreciate some indication of your general direction around this.

Just to conclude, I want to ask again what the rationale is for paying foster parents substantially higher benefits than are paid to natural mothers on family benefits. If you look at the pre-added budget allowances for children, you find that the allowances made for children in care in foster homes are substantially higher. That seems to be really



pretty inexplicable; maybe the minister can comment on that.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** As the member for Bellwoods has mentioned, Mr. Chairman, it's a very broad field. When you get into the whole field of income support and income supplementation there are many elements and many factors involved. The programmes are at all levels of government; municipal, provincial and federal. I do agree there should be a rationalization of the system and it's something to which I'm turning my thoughts. I have been considering it for some time.

I know the definition of a permanently disabled or disabled person as one who has a physical or mental impairment that is likely to continue for a prolonged period of time, and which severely limits his activities in normal living, is a definition we're stuck with, as we are with the definition of permanently unemployable as a person unable to engage in remunerative employment for a prolonged time. These are definitions that, as I say, we're stuck with. Because they go to the substance of our cost sharing with the federal government we're compelled to comply with those definitions.

[8:15]

We feel there should be some rationalization of that. I personally do, because I think it's often difficult to distinguish the two. I would be the first to admit that I think this whole area should be reviewed. I hope it is and I hope it's rationalized.

I don't know that I can add too much more without prolonging the debate, except to mention the comments the member for Bellwoods made in terms of support of foster children as opposed to the support of the natural children. I think, again, there is a distinction between a family which takes in foster children and a family which may be looking after their own children. Certainly there is difference in terms of payment. I think family living has differences, no matter what your economic needs may be—for example you may be passing along clothing from one child to another and that may seem acceptable within the natural family; it may be that foster parents feel that the clothing shouldn't be passed from one foster child to another foster child; there could be expenses such as that that would account for the difference. There may be some other philosophical differences as well that we could discuss. The fact remains that certainly there is a distinction and it may be that that will remain.

Vote 2602 agreed to.

On vote 2603:

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. member for Beaches-Woodbine. Just a moment. I assume that on vote 2603 I deal with it item by item? Item 1, services for children. We'll deal with that first, or do you wish to deal collectively?

**Mr. McClellan:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Will there be separate votes or one vote?

**Mr. Chairman:** We would carry each item as we deal with them.

**Mr. McClellan:** So there will be two votes in this item?

**Mr. Chairman:** That's right.

**Mr. McClellan:** Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman:** So we will deal with item 1, services for children. The hon. member for Beaches-Woodbine.

**Ms. Bryden:** Does day care come under this, Mr. Chairman? That is what I want to speak on.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Minister, would day care come under the services for children, item 1?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Day nurseries come under item 1, yes.

**Ms. Bryden:** Mr. Chairman, I wanted to say a few things about day care. The minister has been telling us about the vast sums of money that he is putting into day care—something like \$26 million—but the fact remains that a great deal of this is money that has been committed over the past three years and the bills are just coming in now.

In spite of this sort of increase, the fact is also with us that there is still only about 15 per cent of the estimated need being met. There is an estimate that we need at least 300,000 daycare spaces, but we are far short of that target. So for the ministry to sit back and say that we are doing very well in day care is really just being smug about the situation.

The need is growing, there is no doubt about that. More and more families are having to have two people go out to work in order to meet mortgage payments today, in order to meet the rising costs of living. There is a growing number of single parent families. There is a growing number of women who wish to have equal opportunity

with men and to work outside the home if they so choose. There is need for women in the home to have part-time day care so that they can get some relief from homemaking. This is done in a lot of the Scandinavian countries but we haven't even started to scratch that particular need. The daycare programme is one that we must not dismiss as something that we are doing well on. The fact that the three-year programme of 100 per cent funding is closing this year means that the minister's commitment to try and overcome the backlog is also running out, unless he brings in a new programme in the coming budget for a new set of 100 per cent funding projects.

All through his comments in reply to the critics, he argued that he was not cutting down because there was a 5.5 per cent increase in grants for daycare subsidies but when wages are allowed to go up eight to 12 per cent under the Anti-Inflation Board rules, how can he say that does not mean cutting down? I find it hard to believe. If wages go up 10 per cent and total provincial aid for subsidies only goes up 5.5 per cent, there are going to be lower subsidies and most daycare costs are wages.

In my riding, every daycare centre has a waiting list. New housing is being built in some areas and the waiting lists will grow. There were plans for a new daycare centre at Dawes Rd. and Coleman. The land is there; it is owned by the city. The need is there but the funds are not there.

The social planning council of Metropolitan Toronto recently did a study of the cost of maintaining a single parent with one child on welfare, and the cost of providing her with subsidized day care and letting her go out to work and become self-supporting. The cost of keeping her on welfare was \$1,508 more than providing her with subsidized day care.

The social planning council concluded that if you looked at the total number of single-parent mothers with one or two children, who were on welfare and who could be enabled to get off welfare and go out and become self-supporting with subsidized day care, there would be a saving of up to \$4.6 million in Metropolitan Toronto alone. That would build a lot of new daycare centres or provide a lot more subsidized space.

There are the additional benefits that those mothers would be self-supporting citizens and not feel they were second-class citizens as so many welfare people unfortunately do. I don't believe they should be made to feel that way but we are tending to make them

feel that way and their children tend to grow up in an atmosphere of being considered welfare kids. Day care is not only a necessity for families, it is also a money-saving project in the long run.

I would appeal to the minister to consider that day care is an exception; and to take the recommendation of the special programme review report, which is sometimes called the Henderson report, that day care should not be cut back but should be considered an important part, really, of the whole educational system, an integral part of our society. Therefore, I would ask him to reconsider his rate of assistance to day care and make it a special case.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I wasn't sure of the number of spaces that the member for Beaches-Woodbine indicated were necessary. I wonder if she could clarify that?

**Ms. Bryden:** There are various estimates, Mr. Minister, but 300,000 is what I have heard we need.

**Mr. McClellan:** One of the problems, if I might say Mr. Chairman, is quite simply that there has not been an adequate need study done in this province. We are forced to try to make projections of day care needs based on material we take from the Ministry of Labour about the number of women in the workforce with pre-school children or children of school age. When we say 300,000, we're talking about, probably, the total child care needs, not just day care but after school, lunch care, child care facilities as well as group and family day care.

Your ministry has the responsibility, among other things, for planning for human need in this province. It really is about time that a serious study of daycare needs in Ontario was undertaken so that we would not have you saying 50,000 and us saying 300,000, but would have some rational basis for planning for the needs of the people of this province.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** There are certainly some wide differences of opinion in terms of need. I believe the member for Bellwoods at one time mentioned 400,000 places.

**Mr. McClellan:** Well, let's not play games. I am asking you to do a serious study, not to engage in that sort of numbers game.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I don't want to get involved in a numbers game either, but whether it is 300,000 or 400,000, we may say that we are playing a numbers game. We found the average cost per place of day



care in Ontario is something over \$5,000. If you are talking 400,000 you are talking maybe \$200 million. If it's 300,000, it is \$150 million for capital for day care. And of course the capital money is often the cheapest money that you will spend because we found the operating costs are so high.

**Ms. Bryden:** You are going to save \$1,508 a year for each child.

**Mr. Davidson:** Where did you get the 50,000 figure?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** The 50,000 figure is the figure that we have already put into place. What I am saying is that we have 50,000 places in Ontario now.

**Mr. McClellan:** May I say to you again that I don't understand your reluctance to undertake a serious needs study.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I am not reluctant. In fact, I think we made a grant to a Metropolitan Toronto group of something in the area of \$45,000, if I am not mistaken, to carry out a study in the Metropolitan Toronto area. It is not a question of not being concerned. But as the members know, there are many types—

**Mr. McClellan:** That's just one area of the whole province. It would be good to have some good hard clear data. Then if you and ourselves want to disagree on the question of priorities, that's fine and it becomes more appropriately a political discussion. It shouldn't be a political discussion as to how many places are needed in Ontario. That is simply a matter of factual material that so far has not been made available.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** It is not factual material. You've come up with your figures of 400,000. It's not that simple because probably most day care is private day care which is fully funded by the user and of which we don't have a record. We've had, as you know, our own internal studies. We've had an advisory council on day care. It's one thing to say that we need X number of places based on working mothers with children under, say, six years of age.

**Mr. McClellan:** You don't want to do the study.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** In terms of the actual need, I suppose whatever there is will be used. What we are trying to do is to ensure that publicly financed or subsidized day care is used on an income or needs test base to ensure that those people who cannot fully

afford day care themselves are able to have day care. The study in the Metropolitan Toronto area, I understood, was costing \$110,000 of which the province's contribution is \$45,000, as I mentioned.

**Mr. B. Newman:** I wanted to solicit some information from the minister. The individual is on mother's allowance and has a child 15 years of age who turns 16. Does that child still get benefits under the mothers' allowance? At what age is that child cut off. Is it 16 or is it 18?

[8:30]

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I think it depends whether the child is going to school or not, if I'm not mistaken. I believe it can be up to 21 years of age.

**Mr. B. Newman:** So even though the child may have just turned 18 and be attending a post-secondary institution, your ministry will still provide benefits to that child, through the mother, under the Family Benefits Allowance—as long as she's attending school. Am I right?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I understand, yes, there could be support for a child over 18, if that child is attending school.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Even if the child were to continue on to get a degree or do post-graduate work.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Yes, I would assume so.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister.

**Mr. Swart:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to deal with one small part of the ministry's programme, or perhaps lack of it. It is not because I think that there are problems only in this one part of the programme. As my colleague from Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) has pointed out, there are problems in almost every area of your ministry. But I think this one is very apparent. It is one in which I think even you, Mr. Minister, must have some concern.

Both the federal government and provincial government in recent years have given some recognition to the fact that our elderly citizens, who have contributed so much to our economy and our society over the years, should have a relatively decent minimum standard of living. Therefore, we have the federal programme and the provincial GAINS programme. This provides, or did at least until the recent increases in gas and other things, some reasonable degree of minimum income, compared to many others on the income maintenance programme.

But there is one aspect of this programme which, to put it mildly, leaves a lot to be desired. That is the situation where you have a man who has reached the age of 65 or over, where either he or his wife—or both of them prior to that time—were on family benefits. He suddenly receives the GAINS supplement and finds out that the family benefits that they had been receiving have been cut down to the exact degree of the increase in the old age supplement and in the GAINS programme.

I could tell you of a family in my area, a man who is now 72, who has a wife who is partially disabled and is much younger than he is. She was on family benefits and receiving a certain income, and he went on the GAINS programme, and she still continued to receive some—

**Mr. Chairman:** Order, please. I wonder if the Chair could interrupt. We are dealing with item by item, and I believe you are speaking on the services for adults. That would be item 2. I don't know whether the minister wishes to respond; but I think for an orderly discussion we should stay with the items as they are listed.

**Mr. Swart:** I apologize, Mr. Chairman. I will abide by your ruling, of course. But I only have three or four more sentences. Do you want me to finish now or do you wish me to speak just a little later?

**Mr. Chairman:** Perhaps we should deal with the services for children; and the Chair will recognize you as the first speaker when we go to the services for adults.

The hon. member for St. George.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, when we were dealing with the services for children, and we were dealing with another minister, there was a commitment given to this committee by this minister's predecessor that there were to be funds available for a study to be undertaken of the suicides and suicidal attempts of young children in our community. Is this study now provided for? I don't know that it is within this vote that that would be permitted, but it does seem to me that we ought to have that information. I think it could shed a great light on the present status of services to children.

I believe that the former Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Brunelle) was concerned about this then, and did give this commitment to us—he's nodding his assent. It is a very serious situation. I don't know how serious it is across the province but I can tell you it is serious in the city

and in the Metropolitan Toronto area. May I know whether that kind of a report is covered in this vote in the moneys allocated to this purpose?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** No, it is not, Mr. Chairman. I may say that I have a copy of the letter which my predecessor wrote to the member for St. George Aug. 1, 1975, stating that:

I am replying to your inquiry during the ministry's estimates concerning a study of suicide among young children. At this time I am pleased to advise you that the ministry will give serious consideration to including such a study in its research programme for 1975-1976. The staff of the Children's Services Bureau have been directed to review this question and to explore the formulation of a research plan for implementation by the ministry's research staff. Thank you for your continued expression of concern for problems respecting children.

I did want to put that in the record because I know the member for St. George is concerned about that. I may say that to my knowledge a research programme isn't being carried out. It's certainly not included in the supplementary estimates. Again, without being in a position to make a commitment in the estimates for 1976-1977, I will certainly give renewed consideration to the member's request.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I very much appreciate the response of the minister. It seems to me that this is something which has to be done so that we can understand what is happening to children and what we are lacking in services to them.

I don't really know whether it has anything to do with the moon or the time of the year or whatever, but from my experience I can tell you that the month of March in the courts was always a very dreaded month. I'm speaking now only for the Metropolitan Toronto area, but I say this because of the incidence of these attempts and in some cases the incidence of very successful attempts of children.

My experience is not statistically valuable—I recognize that—but it would seem that for the most part the children who are involved in this kind of activity are children who have not had the benefit of any kind of assistance from any agency whatsoever until suddenly they appear in the courts. I'm not going to give the facts of a certain case here, because it could be identifiable, but when you face a



child who is under eight years of age, who is in the court and who has tried three times in three different ways to commit suicide, and when you know that child has had no support services anywhere along the line so that the court becomes the first social service for that child, then I believe we have to look at this kind of situation.

I have to tell you that a judge in a family court does face the very fact that on occasion a child who has been before him or her has been successful in this attempt. Believe me, it stays with you for the rest of your life. It really does. These are children and when we recognize that these children find nothing in life for them, when they find that the alternative is to end it—and they are really babies in our eyes—then surely we must—someone has to plead for this kind of a study.

I know the minister finds me over-dramatic on occasion but I would like him to understand that what I am saying tonight comes from a very real commitment to an understanding of this problem and a very real commitment to get at the reasons for this kind of activity.

The other thing that I would like to ask is: In these funds is there any provision for what again I understood—it wasn't as firm a commitment and I don't want to be inaccurate in my statement—but indeed there was a sense of direction in this ministry in the area of child abuse. Is there any funding here for the kind of project which we discussed at a meeting which, again, was convened by the then Minister of Community and Social Services to try to understand the problem of child abuse? Is there anything in here for that activity?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** In response, may I say again I fully appreciate the points the member for St. George made in the estimates earlier, last year and, of course, has repeated.

In regard to the child abuse programme may I say that there is nothing additional in these estimates for the child abuse programme although we did budget for \$275,000 in the current fiscal year in that area.

As the member may know, we have conducted seminars on this. We are proceeding in that area. I would anticipate—it is certainly my view—that the estimates of this ministry, when they come forward for 1976-1977, will contain considerably more for child abuse programmes.

I personally feel that is an area in which we can do much more than we have been doing and I think it is something my min-

istry should address itself to. I think the member will find that out when the estimates for 1976-1977 are tabled.

**Mrs. Campbell:** I appreciate the minister's response. May I ask one further question?

Is the programme which has been undertaken by Sick Children's Hospital funded through this ministry or the Ministry of Health? That is the programme whereby the hospital has taken into its care, if you like, a child who is disturbed. It has taken the parent in with the child so that there can be a concentrated kind of investigation of the problem of the child in its relationship to the family.

[8:45]

I have never understood whether that came under the Health Ministry or whether it was a part of the Community and Social Services function. These children usually go to Sick Children's hospital as a result of a court appearance, where there have been some very bizarre incidents surrounding the child's relationship to a parent. The Sick Children's hospital—and I am most grateful and I am sure there isn't a judge in Ontario who isn't grateful for their effort in this area—have in fact embarked upon this programme to take the child in with the parent with whom it seems to be in conflict, or where there are some very bizarre kinds of acting out.

Now would that programme be covered by your ministry, would it be covered by Health, or would it be covered by Justice in some way? I have never been able to get an answer to that.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I think the programme the member for St. George speaks of, Mr. Chairman, is funded through Health. There may be some involvement in my ministry in terms of, say funding through a Children's Aid Society the worker who may be involved as well, but that is only incidental.

We do work, I know, with the Hospital for Sick Children in conjunction with Surrey Place, certainly in the MR field. We are working again with the university and we will be developing a resource centre there, probably the provincial resource centre in that area. But I think it's a Health matter that the member speaks of.

May I, Mr. Chairman, make one clarification in response to the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. B. Newman). I mentioned the continuing of family benefits for persons taking post-secondary education. Community colleges are covered and trade schools, but

the clarification I wanted to make was that it does not as yet cover degree courses. We are considering that; the change has not yet gone through in terms of degree courses. I did want to clarify that, it is under consideration.

**Mr. B. Newman:** I appreciate that, Mr. Minister, because of all the people we should be helping it's that type of individual—to get out of the syndrome that they happen to be living in and be a real benefit to the community and to their family later on.

**Mr. Davison:** Now that an election is more or less imminent, there are a great many things we can all look forward to with pleasure. I suspect I speak for the majority of members on this side of the House when I say that one of the things we look forward to most is the removal of this minister before he manages to destroy his own ministry.

This whole restraint package of his that we have all heard so much about is a charade and it's a sham. I wouldn't be surprised to find out that a large portion of this programme will end up costing us considerably more than any of the alleged saving. The minister has been able to get some very cheap headlines with his welfare-basher approach, but to claim—

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I don't wish to get involved in confrontation here or that type of dialogue. If we are going to comply with the Chair's instructions to deal with this particular item, then I would request the Chair ensure that the member's remarks are confined to this particular item. I am prepared to take him on on any issue at any time in connection with my ministry—

**Mr. Bain:** We listened to you. Why don't you listen to him?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** But I think it would be an abuse of the time of this chamber if we get into a tirade in general terms such as that.

Interjections.

**Mr. Chairman:** I would ask the hon. member for Hamilton Centre to direct his remarks specifically to item 1, services for children.

Interjections.

**Mr. Chairman:** Well, I hadn't noticed, up to this point, that he was dealing with that.

**Mr. Foulds:** You haven't heard anything.

**Mr. Davison:** I will endeavour to become less provocative.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Just objective, for a change, will be fine, instead of objectionable.

**Mr. Davison:** I think the claim that the programme is designed to save money and get people off welfare is, at the least, a gross misrepresentation and, furthermore, I think that this package is a direct and brutal assault on the most vulnerable people in our society.

Consider though the effects this minister's sledgehammer approach has had on the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth. The 5.5 per cent limit placed on that society threatens the society's very capacity to fulfil its responsibilities under the Child Welfare Act of Ontario.

The society has been losing foster resources over the past five years at a high rate. Under the limits of this ministry there can be no appreciable increase in the rates of board paid to foster parents, with the exception of a slight adjustment in the age categories zero to five years and six to 11 years, which is simply to bring the society up to the base level of the Catholic Children's Aid Society in the area. There will be no increase paid to the foster and group home parents who care for children 12 and over. This is where the very greatest pressure is in the Children's Aid Society in the city I represent, because over 50 per cent of their children are 13 years of age and over. If the rate of support cannot be increased to a level at least equal with the cost of living increases, the whole programme will be very seriously jeopardized. Let's not play games about that with the public.

No increase is possible for the outside specialized institutions which care for about 14 per cent of the more troubled or disturbed children in Hamilton. Further, the number of children under such care will be frozen at 65, which is the level that was set at the end of last year, and there will be no possibility of admitting so much as one extra child. Mr. Minister, I would ask, what becomes of that child? Where does that child go? The responsibility for what happens to that child is yours, and I hope you have a very serious answer for that, because the people of Hamilton want to know about it.

If the society loses staff or has to reduce it, if the society loses fostering group homes and the use of its institution, what do they do? Where do they go? What are they supposed to tell the court when it refers children to them through a transfer of guardianship and



the society has either no money to care for the child or no resource in which to place the child? Mr. Minister, what can you tell the child? What's your answer? I want to hear it.

I hope that the minister is not inclined to suggest to us that everything will be all right, because he predicts no appreciable increase in the number of children who will require the services of the society. I say that because the 5.5 per cent limit will very seriously damage the protective and preventive services of the society. Without these services, many more children will be in need of in-care assistance.

I hope that the minister isn't unaware that at any given time the society in Hamilton-Wentworth is working with about 1,000 children in their own family home environment. All of these children are potential candidates for wardship, and the minister's restraint programme could and quite probably will force many of them into an in-care situation by causing the society to have to curtail large parts of its protective and preventive services.

On Jan. 16 of this year, Jack Finlay, the managing director of the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth, wrote the following in a brief:

One of the most significant areas of concern is with respect to staff salaries, wages and vacancies as they occur throughout the year. . . . As staff leave the agency of their own volition, it is very unlikely we will be able to replace them, which will add a further burden of responsibility on the staff thus reducing their effectiveness.

Staff have taken a very mature and responsible approach to their salary requests for 1976. In fact, they agreed to abide by the federal guidelines, if necessary, and without complaint. However, to provide nothing whatsoever by way of salary adjustment in 1976 is asking far too much of its staff and it is grossly unjust.

I would like an answer to that too.

Is the minister aware that his restraints will rule out entirely any further staff training and development? Is he aware that his restraints will rule out entirely the self-help telephone line which—if he doesn't know—is a recorded message to single or unmarried pregnant girls advising them of the services available through the society. Is the minister aware that his restraints will rule out entirely foster parent development?

Is the minister aware that his restraints will rule out entirely after school and lunch-time supervision programmes on or before June 30 of this year? Is the minister aware that his restraints will rule out entirely the allocation

of a qualified and experienced staff member to a community child abuse team on a full-time basis? Is the minister aware that his restraints will rule out entirely the summer programme involving upwards of 400 children and of families as part of the operating budget?

I would also like to know if the minister is aware of some of the services that will have to be reduced over the 1975 expenditure pattern because of his restraint programme.

Ward sundries will be reduced. Those, if he is not aware, are the moneys paid to children directly or on their behalf over and above spending allowances. These will include athletic equipment, bicycles, birthday and Christmas gifts—how cheap can you get to get votes?—school trips, moneys used to subsidize foster parents when they wish to take foster children on vacation trips.

Among the casualties are pre-adoption expenses which include the taking of pictures, of children being considered for adoption and for circulation throughout the province to other agencies. This item also includes their share in joint Children's Aid Society social get-togethers of prospective adopting parents and children.

The minister's restraints cut into the funding for the foster parent association. In the past the society in Hamilton-Wentworth has budgeted a nominal amount to assist the foster parent association executive to strengthen the whole foster parent programme and to assist foster parents in getting to know one another and to further broaden their knowledge and develop their skills in caring for children.

The various client assistance programmes will also suffer under the axe. These include help in emergencies such as rental arrears, hydro, food, clothing, transportation, home-maker services, craft or self-help treatment in therapeutic programmes designed to strengthen the self-image of individuals in their roles as members of the family.

The minister's restraints will cut out—I hope you are listening to this—volunteer programmes. You're really big on volunteers but they're going to be forced to cut back on their volunteer programmes because they're not going to be able to provide assistance to volunteers for help with transportation costs in working with adults and children. This also includes the cost of transporting children to a play school operated by the society and staffed entirely by volunteers.

There will be reductions in a number of things in spite of increased costs. For example, there will be a reduction in mailing

capacity. There will be reductions in legal fees to cover the cost of wardship appeals. There'll be reductions in publicity and advertising for foster homes, missing persons, etc., reduction in association fees and the elimination entirely of membership in the Ontario Welfare Council and the Canadian Council for Social Development.

[9:00]

The foregoing are offset by costs over which the society has no control, nor has the minister any control, or very little, such as heat, light, water, unemployment insurance, telephone, workmen's compensation rates, Ontario sales tax—could you maybe fix that for them so they wouldn't have to pay any sales tax?—committed costs, such as leases and operations of business equipment. In addition, a cost over which the society has no control is the retirement of the debenture debt with respect to the acquisition of their new facilities.

Mr. Chairman, I'm going to close now. Let me say to the minister in all sincerity, I would be very, very happy to support a programme that would end welfare abuse if only this minister could propose one, but to masquerade a vicious and unprincipled attack on defenceless children as a programme to end welfare abuse is a disgusting and cheap political trick and it is worthy of no one other than this minister.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I don't know who the speechwriter for the member for Hamilton Centre might be, but I don't think he can be a very responsible one.

Mr. McClellan: You had better hire him fast.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I've never heard such a nonsensical tirade in my life as the utterings of the member.

Mr. Bain: You don't listen to yourself then, do you?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's absolutely nonsensical. If you direct yourself to this particular item of this vote you will see that the request is made for \$4,779,000 to assist Children's Aid Societies.

Mr. Davison: What's going to Hamilton?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And I may say, Mr. Chairman—

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The minister didn't interrupt when the member for Hamilton Centre was speaking.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —that the additional moneys are necessary because of some workload increases, some inflationary increases, and of course the financing of preventive services.

In regard to the inflationary increases, I may say that the cost of foster homes has increased 29.3 per cent; group homes, 44.3 per cent; and paid institutions 12.6 per cent. Because of these increased costs—

Mr. Davison: Give us the reasons why.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —it has been necessary to adjust upward the budgets of the Children's Aid Societies of this province, to ensure that the children of the province who are in care of Children's Aid Societies are being well looked after.

I may say, in response to the member for Hamilton Centre, if he's interested in statistics and caseloads, that the number of children in care of Children's Aid Societies in Ontario between the ages of zero and nine years—

Mr. Davison: Let's talk about Hamilton.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —were 5,747 in 1973; 5,123, or a decrease, in 1974—

Mr. Makarchuk: He groans on and on.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —and a further decrease to 4,998 in December, 1975. In the age group 10 to 17, in December, 1973, the numbers were 8,038; in December, 1974, 8,092; in December, 1975, 8,386. In the group of 18 to 21, in December, 1973, the total number of children in care were 484—

Mr. Makarchuk: Are you reading the odds at the races tonight, or what are you reading?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —in December, 1974, the number was 503; and the actual for December, 1975 was 521.

Mr. Davison: Is that for the province or Hamilton?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am talking about the province—

Mr. Makarchuk: You make a bloody mess of it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —and I will talk about Hamilton in a minute. You are interested in the welfare of the children of this province, surely you have that in mind; if you haven't you should have.

Mr. Makarchuk: You are making a mess out of it.



**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I want to give you some facts—

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** —and all you are doing is stirring up a storm. You are creating a lot of upset without facts, and I think you are doing a disservice to the province by doing so.

**Mr. Davison:** Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Does the member from Hamilton Centre have a point of order?

**Mr. Davison:** I would think so. If the minister is accusing me of talking without facts, then if he will simply ask me what facts it is he wishes to know I will gladly give them to him.

**Mr. Chairman:** That is not a point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Chairman, if I may give the totals for 1973, 1974 and 1975 of the number of children in care of Children's Aid Societies in Ontario: In December of 1973 there were 14,269; in December of 1974, 13,718 a decrease; and in December of 1975 13,905, which is a slight increase.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Why don't you get the public accounts books? There are a lot of figures you can read out for ever and ever.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** And may I say that the number of staff employed by Children's Aid Societies in December of 1973 was 2,710; in December of 1974, 2,839; and December of 1975, 3,169. There was a greater increase in staff than there was in the number of children coming into care.

**Mr. Davison:** They were finally getting the care they needed.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** If we look at all of the Children's—

**Mr. Davison:** Can we take a break until your speech writer gets here?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** —Aid Societies in Ontario—and I wrote all of them earlier this week stating that I would review their special problems with them in the spirit of my meeting with the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Societies, because I am not discriminating in regard to any Children's Aid Societies in Ontario, we are going to ensure that no children do suffer because of the restraint programme. I specifically said

that since the beginning and they have all been notified of that fact. So there may be options that the Hamilton Children's Aid Society will exercise in the adjustment of its services. It has that built-in flexibility, but it will be treated like any other Children's Aid Society, including those of Metropolitan Toronto.

**Mr. Davison:** Is that the answer?

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. member for Haldimand-Norfolk.

**Mr. G. I. Miller:** Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if in the 1976 programme there will be money available and assistance for a daycare centre in the town of Dunnville? Does the minister have to make this study or can it be promoted from local study groups?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Chairman, I am not sure if there was an application from Dunnville.

**Mr. G. I. Miller:** Yes, a request has come in. I wonder if there are funds available?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** There will not be any new capital funds apart from those already committed for day care. I am not sure whether the Dunnville one has been approved or not. I would have to check the list. If it was approved I would assume it would have been processed. If you wish I can check on that particular application. We have about 56 that will be proceeded with in this year but I can't say at the moment whether that is one of the 56 or not.

**Mr. G. I. Miller:** Mr. Chairman, is my understanding correct then that unless there is an application in, it wouldn't be considered for 1976?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** There'll be no new capital funding. If it hasn't been approved now, then you won't see it approved in the next fiscal year.

**Mr. Chairman:** The member for Hamilton East.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** Mr. Chairman, speaking to the services for children, I'm not going to take very much time at all, but I want the minister to know that the excellent presentation made by the member for Hamilton Centre (Mr. Davison) listed in detail some of the cuts, some of the vital services that the Children's Aid Society in Hamilton-Wentworth is not going to be able to provide. They are very definitely damaging to the programmes for children in that city. I

don't know whether you heard them or not, but I never heard one iota of an answer from you on the questions he raised.

Now let me deal with a couple of things. You've had letters from the society. You've had letters from the managing director and from the president of the society. They've outlined in detail—because I've had copies of them too—their problems and where they stand. I think you owe them the courtesy really answering them and not waffling, as you do, all over the area.

Let me just read from one of their letters.

What we would like to draw to your attention are those areas in which we believe the intensity of the proposed restraints will significantly jeopardize our capacity to deliver services under the Child Welfare Act, and may seriously affect the welfare of children and families in our area, even if we were freed from such legal responsibilities.

There are two main areas of concern. The first is simply the effect of the rollover of various budgetary items. This rollover is composed mainly of expenditures reflecting increases in salaries and boarding rates to foster parents implemented in September and July 1975, respectively, and approved staff additions at various intervals through 1975 and yet applicable to the whole of 1976 in terms of costs.

According to our current projection, the rollover factor alone would require a 5.4 per cent increase in our 1975 approved estimates, based on a projection of our current level of spending as of December, 1975. This would then make no provision whatsoever for any adjustments in rates of board to keep pace with the cost of living; or modest adjustments in salaries for staff we must retain to provide basic services. Nor would we be able to cope with already publicized percentage increases and rates charged by Hydro, workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, postage, fuel and the Bell Telephone Co.; to name but a few areas of specific concern.

Mr. Minister, as it stands you are allowing, 5.5 per cent. The rollover costs that they've got no control over at all are 5.4 per cent. This agency is one of the most efficient in the province. I've never seen a more dedicated group of people.

My colleagues and I have now met with them three times—the entire staff of the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton—and let me tell you, they've done a job that I don't think they should have done in terms of looking at

their budget for the coming year and cutting it and paring it. They got it down, originally, to 9.4 per cent. That's below any cost of living increase.

Let me tell you also they were ready to forgo—and it's something I wouldn't accept—any salary increases for their staff whatsoever.

After running into a blank wall with your ministry in terms of any increases, they cut it even further, to nine per cent. That cuts out all of the programmes that my colleague was talking about. That's their figure based on their cuts, and you're not prepared to say that you're going to give them that. How could they budget or plan their services for the year without knowing where they stand?

Mr. Minister, I don't know whether you understand anything that's going on here at times. I'm sorry, but let me tell you very clearly that you make Scrooge look like a piker. That simply has to be changed and these agencies have to be told what they can have to operate on; and it's got to be at least that kind of a figure. I think you owe it to them to get back to the society and tell them what they've got. If it's 5.5 per cent then you are a disgrace to the ministry and you should resign your seat.

Mr. Davison: Resign.

[9:15]

Mr. Makarchuk: In the interests of humanity, would you kindly leave?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I simply do not accept the statement the member for Hamilton East has made.

Mr. Mackenzie: Are you saying they are lying at the society?

Mr. Davison: You don't accept the figures of the society?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Just a minute. I didn't interrupt you. I don't accept that statement because I don't think it fully reflects the facts. If the member was current regarding the situation, he would know budgetary review is now under way with that Children's Aid Society in conjunction with my staff. That review is in line with remarks I've made over the past two months, and more particularly in terms of—

Mr. Mackenzie: Not in line with the pressure.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —my current statements in regard to assisting Children's Aid Societies



in those areas where they're suffering particular hardship.

**Mr. McClellan:** Because of you.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** That is under way, so I'm convinced the matter will be resolved to the satisfaction not only of the Children's Aid Societies but the constraint programme; and in such a way that it will accommodate the true needs of children.

**Mr. Cunningham:** I don't want to berate you—you've had your fair share of that—but I wonder if you'd indicate—

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Don't be timid about it. Don't worry about berating me.

**Mr. Cunningham:** Oh, no, that's not my function here. My predecessors here and my associates from Hamilton have very clearly indicated the concern that I too share with other members from Hamilton about the future provision of services in our area.

I would like to ask you about these services and possibly get an indication from you for the people back home. I'm very concerned about the provision of these services and the requirement, not only the moral requirement but the legal requirement, that we have to provide these services to the children of our area. I'm just wondering, in that light, what is going to be the attitude of your ministry, and more specifically of your government, to a bill that I'm sure you're going to receive from the regional municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth with regard to the cost—at least 80 per cent of it likely—that is going to be required by law to provide these services? I'm just wondering, in the light of that, what is the attitude of your government going to be?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Is that the question?

**Mr. Cunningham:** That's the guts of it.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** In response to the member, when I receive that communication, I will consider it in light of the circumstances at that time. I'm not going to anticipate any communications or try to resolve in a vacuum problems that may be there.

Again, I'd like to repeat that I have already indicated a potential for flexibility in regard to those areas where there is undue hardship or pressure because of physical and financial resources. That review is currently under way and I'm convinced we'll resolve the problems.

While I'm on my feet and while the member for Peterborough (Ms. Sandeman) is now in the House, may I merely say that the date

of change in regard to the increase in the cost of the support of the child who was resident in the school—I don't know whether it was Belleville or not—

**Ms. Sandeman:** Belleville—or any of the schools.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:**—Belleville or any school in any event was increased in February of this year. It may increase, as I indicated, to half the rate, which I think was about \$18. A review is also under way in terms of a further increase.

In regard to hearing aids—that issue was mentioned, as to financing for hearing aids—from July last year to March 16 this year, 149 hearing aids were supplied for a total cost of \$24,561.07, plus 18 repairs at a cost of \$530.95, for a grand total of \$25,092.02. As I mentioned, that was started in July, 1975, and I thought the member might like that information.

**Mr. Cunningham:** Mr. Chairman, if I may, on that point: If I thought that some vituperation would aid in getting more money for the Children's Aid Society and the various agencies in my area, you would enjoy it from me.

I don't think that is going to accomplish anything, but if I could suggest, on a non-partisan basis, that you meet with three individuals. I think your associate the member for Oriole, (Mr. Williams), having met several of them just yesterday, might agree with me that it might be of benefit to you, to the government and of course to the people we serve.

The three people I speak of in the Hamilton area are Mr. Vedell, Mr. Mac Carson and Mr. Finlay, who was mentioned earlier. I think a further meeting with them would be of benefit to us all, because I think they will very clearly indicate to you that we cannot continue to provide the services which are morally and legally required of us under your present fiscal restraints.

I am afraid that what we are going to see is some very anti-social tendencies and some severe dislocation of these services which we require if we don't look at this problem today.

I would suggest to you very sincerely that in the next 10 days somehow a meeting be arranged with these individuals, who I assure you would be willing to meet with you at any time, at any place, to discuss these restraints. I can assure you Hamilton is going to need this and we just can't provide it on what you are talking about. It is really

cheap and stupid to continue the way we are going right now.

Again, the names of the individuals are Mr. Vedell, Mr. Mac Carson and Mr. Jack Finlay. It is going to save us all a lot of aggravation in the long run.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think the member for Wentworth North has indicated the approach I have demonstrated in the past and am demonstrating. Of course, I think it is a sensible approach, once the staff review has been completed, to sit down with the directors of the Children's Aid Societies and ensure that the budget is worked out to see that these problems inherent in them are resolved.

Certainly I am prepared to do that, as I am with all of the Children's Aid Societies. As I mentioned before, I don't pick and choose. I think we have to be fair and equitable. There are 50 Children's Aid Societies in Ontario and I don't propose to deal with one any differently than I do with the other. Certainly I will be prepared to meet with the society.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could ask the minister if he has decided to scrap this 5.5 ceiling?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am sorry; did you say have I scrapped it?

Mr. Foulds: Have you decided to scrap your 5.5 per cent ceiling for the Children's Aid Societies?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, Mr. Chairman, in response I've—

Mr. Foulds: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Please don't try those tactics.

Mr. Foulds: You answered the question.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I was asked a question. In terms of the ceiling, we accept the overall parameters of the government's increased spending in the area of Children's Aid Societies and the instructions that the guideline of 5.5 per cent be adhered to. Implicit in those instructions, of course, was the undertaking to deal with pressure areas.

About half the Children Aid Societies, I would expect, have come within those guidelines. I am prepared to address the special problems. As I said, there is a potential for flexibility because of the added burden on certain Children's Aid Societies. I am prepared to resolve that; so that, in my estimation, that doesn't attack the integrity of the

guidelines, and it is certainly not intended to. However possible, we want to see that they are adhered to—within, of course, the reasonable approach that we want to ensure there will be no children in this province who will suffer because of those guidelines and budgetary constraints. So, by necessity, there have to be certain exceptions made where the need is demonstrated.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, through you to the minister, I want to speak for a few moments, if I might, about one of those pressure points, and that's the Thunder Bay District Children's Aid Society. I assume that you know it is responsible for a territory of 114,864 square miles, give or take a few, and that the society was formed back in 1968 at the urging of your ministry out of the old Fort William and Port Arthur Children's Aid Societies.

When it was finally formed at the urging of your ministry, it developed a five-year plan which eight years later still has not been implemented—once again at the urging of your ministry, because every year the society has realistically and responsibly cut back on its budget, postponed and delayed some programmes, and particularly has used the device of delaying the implementation of certain costs until June of the year to spread the costs over 18 months.

It is not particularly important that you are going to impose a blanket 5.5 per cent increase on their estimated budget, because their current budget, based on the expenditures of the tail ends of the last year, simply cannot come in under your guidelines. In fact, the Thunder Bay Children's Aid Society, just to maintain the same level of programme as established for the last six months of 1975, would require \$156,274 in addition to the 5.5 per cent increase you are presently saying is permitted.

I know they have written to you asking to set up a meeting with you to discuss this particular problem. I would like to know if you have set up such a meeting with that Children's Aid Society and when they will be meeting with you. In order to prepare you for that meeting, I would like to tell you some of the things that society is going to have to do—some of the very damaging things that society is going to have to do if you impose the blanket 5.5 per cent on them.

Just in the area of what they call administrative costs, they figure they probably could save \$20,000. They could. Do you know what that would mean, though? It means cutting out summer camps; that's an



administrative cost. It means cutting out staff training programmes; that's called an administrative cost. It means nobody in the Thunder Bay Children's Aid Society will be able to go to any of their professional conferences or upgrade their knowledge or specialty in their area, and it means reducing the allotment to the foster parents association; those are administrative costs, those are controllable costs.

However, the real pinch comes on those areas that directly affect children or the families of those children. To meet your imposed ceilings, the Thunder Bay Children's Aid Society will have to reduce the number of children coming into its care by 10 per cent. That can only be accomplished in a couple of very destructive ways.

[9:30]

One of them is that they will have to leave children in their own homes in circumstances which the community will not accept and which, if I may say so, the legislation of this province does not accept. It means returning disturbed and turbulent children, delinquent children, to their own homes long before the problems in those homes and the children's problems have been overcome. It also means the return of some very troubled children to the community; children who, at the present time, are in treatment centres costing up to \$900 per month per child.

Do you know what else it means in Thunder Bay? It means they will not be able to open a group home which has already been paid for and contracted for. It is set to go but they will not be able to operate. In other words, it was contracted for in good faith. It's an eight-bedroom home; it is presently standing empty and will continue to stand empty unless you raise the ceilings.

It will mean the closing of one or two of the branch offices which the district of Thunder Bay Children's Aid Society has opened. Do you know what it will mean to have to close the branch office of the Children's Aid Society in Armstrong, Ont.? Do you know what that means in that community? Do you know that the three branch offices are more than 200 miles away from Thunder Bay in each case? If you have to send social workers or case workers up in the long run it will probably cost just as much and you will be providing very much poorer service, because it will not be on the spot in that 110,000-square-mile-plus area.

It will mean the restriction of dental work for children under the care of that society to only essential extractions and fillings.

Devastating in my view, and one that is money foolish—that is, penny wise and pound foolish—is that they will have to cut out adoption services for children who could be placed outside the community in other areas of Ontario. The average cost of an adoption to that CAS is about \$2,000.

Let me tell you a little story. Just before the Children's Aid Society in Thunder Bay had its annual meeting that society was able to place six children in adoption with one family outside Thunder Bay somewhere in eastern Ontario. I don't know if you understand the geography but Thunder Bay happens to be 1,000 miles away from Toronto. Unfortunately, Queen's Park is 10,000 miles away, but that's another story.

If that adoption is to take place and take place smoothly—these are older children over six, under 16—you have to do the field work with the family. You have to do the field work with the children. You have to make sure that the social workers can get down here after the placement has taken place so the children have the security of the people they have been in contact with, that is, the social worker.

This illustrates what we are talking about when we say that the emphasis must be on preventive care. By making the placement of that one family unit the Children's Aid Society saved your government and the municipalities \$60,000. That's what the cost would have been, in dollar terms, if those kids had had to stay under the continued care of the Children's Aid Society until the youngest was 16, which is their obligation by law, it would have cost \$60,000—just in dollar terms. In human terms, think what it means for those six kids to be together as one adoption and one adoptive-parent family. That's the kind of money that cannot be cut back. That must not be cut back—no matter what your 5.5 per cent or what your Management Board tells you.

Finally, I want to say to you, Mr. Minister, that this policy is not a policy. One of the things that we have to understand about public spending in this province is that the attack that you and your government are bringing to bear on public spending is an attack on certain freedoms that have been hard-won in this province: the right of the pensioner to live in dignity—the freedom of the child to be brought up in a humane and human condition. That's what you are attacking and that's what we object to most strongly.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** It's interesting that the party whose members seem to be so sup-

portive of the Children's Aid Societies was the party, as I understand it in British Columbia that wiped out the Children's Aid Societies when it came to power. Let me say that we in this government have been supportive of Children's Aid Societies and of management at the local level.

**Mr. McClellan:** British Columbia has had provincial child welfare for over 15 years.

**Mr. Davison:** Let's hear fact, not fantasy.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** And in response to the member's request in connection with the Children's Aid Society in which he is interested, that is one of 10 societies in Ontario from whom I have not received a budget. When I have received their budget and when we have reviewed it, then like the others, I will be happy to sit down and meet with them.

**Mr. Foulds:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, does the minister deny having received a letter requesting a meeting with him to discuss their budget? Does he deny receiving the details that I have outlined to him from Harry Lang, the director?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I believe I have written a letter stating that I would be happy to meet with them after I have received their budget.

**Mr. Swart:** In reply to theirs.

**Mr. Foulds:** Have you set a date for that meeting?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** No, I'm still waiting for the budget.

**Mr. Davison:** No wonder; 5.5 per cent.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order please.

**Mr. Foulds:** How do you expect them to establish the budget on a 5.5 per cent basis?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** All right, we have 40 Children's Aid Societies which have submitted their budgets. I'm looking forward to the receipt of all those budgets. We will review them. I'm sure they will reflect those areas where they feel they need additional funding. I've already written to all of the Children's Aid Societies indicating a potential for flexibility in certain areas. Let's have the budgets and I would be happy to sit down with them after I review the budget.

**Mr. Angus:** Would you like a budget of 10 per cent?

**Mr. Chairman:** Order please, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Erie and then

the hon. member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr) who has been waiting very patiently.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask the minister a question as it relates to the daycare centre programmes in the Province of Ontario.

**Mr. Davison:** You won't get an answer.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Has the minister sent out any directives to the different daycare centres, particularly to the Niagara regional daycare centre, informing them of an increase in the **cost per day for daycare service** and what the increase would be?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I can't recollect any communication that I have sent out to them. Certainly in terms of day care, my general instructions were that we will be expecting a needs tested programme for day care that is subsidized by my ministry. That involves a revision of Form 7 of the Act, which is under way, and it also involves a sliding scale of charges for day care in accordance with the needs of the family in terms of what their income or needs happen to be. We feel that we must go that way to ensure that those who have the most need of day care receive it.

**Mr. Haggerty:** I have a note here before me. I tried to get more information on it tonight but I was concerned about what was brought to my attention by this person. Apparently she is a working mother and has a daughter enrolled in a daycare centre in the Niagara region. The cost of this has increased from \$5 per day to \$11.50 per day.

I was just wondering, because of the minister's statements in the past to the press and to the legislative assembly about single-parent mothers or working mothers who want to go back into the work force, whether this may penalize that person as a working mother and discourage her from becoming self-employed when raising a family.

If you're going to increase the cost of day care by almost 100 per cent, that is quite an increase considering the source of income, especially when we talk about the anti-inflation programme which says you should stay within the limits of eight per cent. You've already set one limit there of 5.5 per cent. When you're talking about a 100 per cent increase, is this not against the principle of the anti-inflation programme? How does one appeal it?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I gather from what you say that you're talking about an increase to \$11.50 a day. Our examination of actual daycare costs, and we're talking about actual



costs per child per diem, indicate they run to about \$20 a day and probably most of the centres are figuring on something in the neighbourhood of \$13 a day. We're accepting that \$13-a-day figure as actual costs, even though they may be considerably higher. Even though \$13 may be the actual cost, if the charge is \$11.50 a day, a person who can afford to pay the full cost of day care would be expected to pay that \$11.50 a day. If that person, after being tested, cannot afford to pay that full cost, then that person would pay anything up to that full cost.

I've had letters from people complaining about having to pay the full cost. I've had it from a couple who are professional people, and I'm sure are making in excess of \$30,000 a year. They were complaining that their daycare costs had doubled. Frankly, I don't feel too sympathetic to persons who earn a fairly high income and have to pay the full cost of their own day care. I think what should happen is that the person who should be subsidized is the one who cannot afford that kind of payment. Of course, if those persons who pay full day care feel they have to take their children out and make private arrangements at a lesser cost, then that will open up, presumably, more accommodation for those who cannot afford to pay their full cost.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Mr. Chairman, I want to pursue this a little further. Last Saturday I had a working mother come into my constituency office and bring to my attention that she was working and trying to raise a family. In my particular area I don't think there is anybody who earns around \$30,000 a year.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** You will if you have two people working.

**Mr. Haggerty:** The average income of a male employee there would be about \$8,000 a year. For a working mother, and taking this person as an example, take-home pay would be about \$160 every two weeks. That works out to about \$80 a week. If you look at that \$11.50 per day, speaking in round figures, you're talking about \$60 a week and that's \$240 a month. If a person has to pay that for enrolment of her child in a daycare centre, I don't know how you're going to get working mothers to stay in the work force.

[9:45]

Your programme, your thoughts and your views are that you want to get single-parent mothers off the welfare rolls into the work

force. Based upon the case I outlined, you're going to discourage them. Even at \$5 a day, if her income is only \$80 a week, that is going to cut into her income. And there is the increased cost of heating homes today. For example, in many cases the cost of natural gas in the Niagara Peninsula has increased almost 50 to 100 per cent. People on low incomes are seriously affected by this.

I think you are going to have to take a serious look at the daycare programme and what you are charging people. I don't think people earning \$30,000 a year should have their children in daycare centres, because they can find other means to look after their children.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Again, I would think the example you gave is a case where, certainly, that person would be paying the minimum charge—not the maximum charge as you have indicated. For example, if you look at municipal day care in Metropolitan Toronto, I think the rate is mostly 25 cents a day. When you talk about accommodating those at the lower income spectrum, we have that type of a rate. In the example that you've given—again I would think whatever the minimum rates are would be more in line with the example than the maximum rate.

When I mentioned the complaints I have had, of course, it is in this area. I have very vividly in mind quite a strong letter from two professional people; both of them working. I would say they each make more than \$15,000 a year—substantially more—and who were quite upset because the rate had increased from \$6 or \$6.50 a day. Again, I don't think that the community should be subsidizing persons of that income.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Maybe one of the reasons for the high cost of daycare services are the professional groups you employ. You can go to a hospital, for example, where babies are born, and perhaps one nurse looks after about 30 babies. But in a daycare centre—I forget what the ratio is. If you go above five children you have to have two more employees. If I can recall one daycare centre they had maybe four persons employed to look after 25 children.

I was born and raised in a large family and my mother raised nine of us. Good Lord, if we had to go back to those days and my mother had to have somebody else come in and look after us, we would really have been in the poorhouse. So I think you can over-stress the need for the professional help. In



kindergarten in an elementary school you don't have two teachers looking after 20 or 30 students in a class; you have one teacher. Maybe you are overloaded.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** All right. Now, we are getting into ratios between the children in the centre and the staff and employees. That's what you are talking about. If you are in a nursery business then, of course, the ratios are even greater. That's why it becomes more expensive.

We are talking about three staff to every 10 infants. When we get into the older groups, from ages two to five, then that ratio changes. You can have twice as many children for the number of staff. Built into that are the professionals that you speak of. Once you introduce the professionals with the higher salaries, you build up a very expensive system.

Frankly, this is something that concerns me when we hear talk of requiring 300,000 day-care places in Ontario. If we are going to develop them in that way, with that kind of staffing, then I think that the operating costs could be horrendous. And especially if you have to address the problem of day care for infant children; and there is pressure there as well.

I believe the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) made a statement some time ago which you probably subscribe to in terms of staffing. We are trying to maintain a high level in terms of the day care that we subsidize, and at the same time I think we have to look at alternative types of day care, probably a more economical type, where that may be appropriate.

**Mr. Burr:** Mr. Chairman, my colleague from Hamilton Centre (Mr. Davison) has given a detailed account of the programmes that the Children's Aid Society in Hamilton will have to abandon, or eliminate, or reduce. I should like to speak briefly about some of the highlights of the effects that the minister's 5.5 per cent ceiling will have on the increased work of the two Children's Aid Societies in Essex county. The Essex County Children's Aid Society had anticipated that only 25 of their children would require care in special homes in 1975. Because of the increase in the numbers of uncontrolled teenagers in 1975, their average for the year turned out to be 35 and not 25, and as the minister is aware, the cost of the special homes runs anywhere around \$800, \$900 or \$1,000 a month.

This year their amended budget, as ordered by the minister, calls for only 20 children as an average throughout the year in the special homes. So far, during the first 2½ months of

this year, the number of children requiring special care has averaged 34. To achieve the year's average of 20 for 1976, it will be necessary to withdraw children continually throughout the year, until in the last two or three months of the year there will be only nine left in special care homes.

Most, if not all of these children should not be allowed to return to their own homes, at least not until either their own attitude is changed or their home environment is improved. At least 10 of them are at present in the best home suitable for their particular problem. The Essex County Children's Aid Society may end up developing a local residential care programme of its own, possibly at some small saving. But to do this, expertise must be acquired or developed or hired.

While I'm on that subject, what is to happen to some of the small special homes that have been built and organized and developed to provide for the special needs of various children under the Children's Boarding Home Act? Several homes in southwestern Ontario—such as The Inn in Windsor, Glengarda, Ambassador Youth Services, Renaissance in Glencoe, Craigwood in London, Ausable Springs in Kitchener, to name a few—have enabled the Children's Aid Society to cope with some considerable success with the very difficult problems of children in distress, problems that land on their doorstep week in and week out.

The minister has boasted of Ontario's social service system, and with good reason. These homes are part of that system, and what I and many people who are closer than I to the whole situation fear is that the government's restraint programme will have a domino effect, a domino or ripple effect on these small homes, these components of the system that lend such a great support to the troubled children in our society.

There's some concern that some of these special homes will have to close and, once closed, it will be very difficult to get them reopened again. In the Essex County Children's Aid Society's budget, the 5.5 per cent increase allowed for 1976 was based on the figures for the first half of 1975, not the second half. In the second half of 1975 there was an increased caseload of children, especially in the difficult teenage section, and salary improvements were implemented for the staff members. Therefore, as far as the second half of 1975 is concerned, the 5.5 per cent increase is no increase at all. It's a decrease.

This Children's Aid Society needs \$2.24 million for 1976. The ministry has authorized



not quite \$2.047 million. The Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society in Windsor and Essex county needs \$1.746 million, but the ministry has authorized only \$1.617 million. These budgets can be met only by cutting staff and overworking those staff members who are kept on. I might say, Mr. Chairman, that I understand the provincial average caseload is 22 for Children's Aid Society workers, but in Windsor it's already 30, so they are already working overtime without extra pay in the Windsor area.

The budgets can be met by denying children the help to which they are legally entitled; by allowing, for example, no automobile replacement, and by eliminating professional conferences, training sessions and workshops. The two societies will probably survive the year, although the possibility exists that at least one board may tender resignations and leave the ministry to pick up the pieces. There is a limit to which volunteers—citizen volunteers—can be pushed.

I should like to refer also to the only rural rehabilitation centre—at least in our part of Ontario—at which teenagers escaping from the drug scene can find effective help. In the five years that Crossroads has been operating in Essex county, about 400 teenagers have passed through it. Just how many have failed to benefit no one can tell, but large numbers have benefited and been restored to their families and to society. Yet this centre faces closure. In fact, this week—I'm not—

**Mr. Bounsall:** It closed this week.

**Mr. Burr:** It's closed? I'm not going to dwell on the loss that this will mean to those teenagers who can no longer be referred to Crossroads by various hospitals, by various doctors, by the Children's Aid Societies and other social agencies.

I'm not going to dwell on the fate of the 13 or 14 teenagers now at this rehabilitation centre, almost all of whom have resumed their formal education courses at various institutions of learning. Some will be sent back to the supervision of the Children's Aid Society or to the judge who was instrumental in sending them there in the first place. In one or two cases, treatment may have been sufficient to enable them to return to their own homes. The prognosis for others, however, is: (a) the street; (b) the hospital; (c) a jail; and (d) the morgue.

**Mr. Lewis:** That's justice.

**Mr. Burr:** If the minister has any compassion, and I'm convinced he has, the plight of these teenagers, present and future, needs

no further comment from me. I should like, however, to point out something that obviously is not being considered by the government as a whole. Crossroads was started about five years ago. It had very difficult times in its first year. In particular the rural neighbours were understandably alarmed by what they thought might be happening in their midst. To make a long story short, Crossroads eventually became accepted for what it was, a reclamation centre for young people trying to return from the drug scene which our society has produced.

[10:30]

The Windsor city council investigated it and eventually approved. The United Way or the community services investigated it and approved. The provincial government investigated it and approved. A board of directors, consisting of many socially-concerned, solid citizens, has steered Crossroads through all its trials and tribulations, the greatest of which has been the bureaucracy of the provincial government, especially in the minister's own ministry.

Crossroads did have auditing problems; it had various problems, but these have finally been cleared up with the help of chartered accountants. Its board has recently been strengthened by the addition of more professional people. Everything was finally looking better, about three months ago. It appeared the countless trips and telephone calls to Queen's Park would no longer be necessary and that the minister would be paying its account promptly rather than three months late, as had often been the case.

With the benefit of time, the expertise of the Crossroads staff was increasing; but today or tomorrow, I am told, ministry officials are going to Windsor to close down the operation. Austerity will triumph, but society will lose, not only this valuable rehabilitation centre but also—and this is what I think you have not thought about—will lose the contribution of a group of concerned citizens who will think long and hard before they again volunteer their services to the social needs of the community. They will not easily be persuaded to be local volunteer leaders for worthy projects that are ill-supported by government agencies. They will take the attitude, I fear, that the government can accept all the responsibility at double or triple the cost.

**Mr. Bounsall:** We will send them all to your farm.

**Mr. Burr:** Our modern society, which more and more people are agreeing is sick, can ill-



afford because of government action to alienate that important body of citizens who donate their services as board members of socially concerned organizations such as Crossroads and the Children's Aid Society. The government should be grateful for this free support from community leaders and should not burden them with monthly crises which are becoming a way of life for all too many organizations.

This afternoon at 5:20 the minister came out with a remarkable quotation—almost a proverb I felt. He said: "When government moves in, charity moves out." Crossroads and the Children's Aid Society are examples of the very opposite. It is when the government lets them down that charity is likely to move out.

Crossroads is a case in point. The ministry has failed this organization. The ministry has let it down and forced it to move out of the charity field. Crossroads was taking teenagers from the court, from Children's Aid Societies, from hospitals, and from other crisis centres, simply because these other organizations had not the time or the space or the expertise or the financial resources to offer treatment.

Crossroads provided a fine service that no other organization was willing or able to provide. Crossroads asked only financial support from the government. Crossroads operated out of a sense of compassion and charity. As long as the government was willing to provide the funds, Crossroads, out of that sense of charity and compassion, was able to perform this duty for society. In such an arrangement, when the government moves out, charity is forced to move out, too.

We don't want the government to run everything, just to support private groups, community groups, in their efforts. Government's role should be supportive of private charity. It should not form a bureaucracy to run everything. Children's Aid Societies are private voluntary groups doing great work despite the financial restraints put upon them by the government's austerity programme.

When government originally moved in, charity, as represented by the Children's Aid Societies of Ontario, did not move out. The societies blossomed. They developed into a great organization doing great work. It is only when this government threatens not to move out but to retreat that charity, in the form of Children's Aid Society boards, has threatened to move out. Mr. Chairman, in the interests of time, I shall let it rest there.

**Mr. Davison:** What have you got against children? Let's hear it.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Chairman, may I very briefly say that I have already indicated in the House that the increase in caseload for Children's Aid Societies is because of their concentrating on the older children, from 10 to 17 years of age.

I appreciate what the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr) has said in regard to an increase in that age range; those children are often the more difficult and more expensive to accommodate than younger children. This is one area which concerned me particularly and, of course, is one of the reasons for my expressing, as I have, the willingness to accommodate in any way possible—and I am talking about financially—the added burdens of the Children's Aid Societies in that regard.

Again I invite a meeting with your Children's Aid Society to help in any way I can in that regard. I want to say that for the record.

In regard to Crossroads, I won't dwell on that. The member for Windsor-Riverside knows that my ministry did make an investigation or study of the situation at Crossroads. There was a fairly lengthy report submitted on it. We were particularly concerned in regard to the accounting practices. We were somewhat concerned with the programme and facilities there.

It was because of certain deficiencies that we felt we would not be able to continue our funding—we had been funding—until there was some change made. It has been indicated to me this evening that Crossroads has closed down or will be closing down very shortly.

Again, may I say there was no austerity programme that dictated or suggested in any way that Crossroads not carry on with its particular programmes. I think it was really a matter of the quality of service and some of the accounting problems which brought about the closure, if that has happened. I want to make that clear, because it is not because of the budgetary constraints that that decision has been made.

**Mr. Chairman:** The government House leader has an announcement.

**Hon. Mr. Welch:** I understand that by arrangement this would complete the consideration of the estimates of this ministry in the House.

Vote 2603 agreed to.

**Mr. Chairman:** This completes the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.



Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I think we also have to complete the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Health.

Municipal roads programme..	2,200,000
Municipal transit programme	17,745,000
Total .....	29,945,000

# SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (concluded)

On vote 2903:

Vote 2903 agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I think that completes the consideration of the supplementary estimates in committee.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of supply begs to report certain resolutions and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

Clerk of the House: Mr. Stokes from the committee of supply reports the following resolution:

Resolved: That supply in the following supplementary amounts and to defray the expenses of the government ministries named be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976:

Ministry of Community and Social Services	
Income maintenance programme .....	\$27,432,100
Social and institutional services programme .....	\$35,793,000

## Ministry of Health

Treatment and rehabilitation programme .....	\$103,500,000
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Mr. Edighoffer from the standing miscellaneous committee reports the following resolution:

Resolved: That supply in the following supplementary amounts and to defray the expenses of the Office of the Assembly and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976:

Office of the Assembly	
Total .....	\$ 1,239,000
Ministry of Transportation and Communications	
Provincial roads programme	10,000,000

# CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY

Resolutions for supply for the following ministries were concurred in by the House:

Ministry of Government Services;  
Ministry of Housing;  
Ministry of Revenue;  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food;  
Office of the Assembly;  
Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

## SUPPLY ACT No. 2

The following bill was given first, second and third readings on motion by Hon. Mr. McKeough.

Bill 33, An Act for granting to Her Majesty Certain Additional Sums of Money for the Public Service for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1976.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, may I indicate the programme for the week beginning March 29? As you know, we will sit that week on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and we will also sit on Wednesday, in order to provide a fairly full week for the Throne Speech debate.

We will then sit on Monday, April 5, all day as well, and we'll have the vote on Monday evening, April 5, at around 10:15.

On Tuesday, April 6, in the afternoon we'll—

Mr. Lewis: It will conclude more quickly than we had thought earlier today.

Hon. Mr. Welch: On Tuesday, April 6 in the afternoon, we will start some consideration of legislation which appears on the order paper and in the order that it appears there. On Tuesday evening the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) will have some remarks for the Legislature.

Mr. Lewis: I guess you are back to budget No. 1 now.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

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# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

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Monday, March 29, 1976

Afternoon Session

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Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe  
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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A list of the speakers taking part in the debates in this issue of Hansard appears, in alphabetical order, at the back of this issue.

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

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MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

**Mr. Speaker:** Statements by the ministry.

Oral questions.

## UNITED ASBESTOS PLANT

**Mr. Lewis:** I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources, if I may. Can I ask him to table with the Legislature the recent readings at the United Asbestos Mine in Matachewan, to which he has publicly referred and the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) has referred, but which readings I don't think are yet posted in the mine nor are they known by members of the House?

**Hon. Mr. Bernier:** I'll be glad to table those readings. I can say to the Leader of the Opposition that in my recent visit to Matachewan the report had not reached the union or the mine as yet when we were there but we did leave them a copy of our report which we had with us, and they were instructed, I believe, to post those reports. I'll certainly check into that and make sure that the readings are tabled in this House.

**Mr. Lewis:** Thank you. Did the minister realize that United Asbestos is advertising, even today, about "immediate opportunities available" for electricians, fabrication welders, sheet metal workers, mill shift bosses, all of them available at Matachewan? Did he know they say, "Our employees enjoy good competitive wages, a good benefits programme and an outstanding home ownership policy"? Might he advise them to recommend as to the hazards of working in such an environment as well as the joys and the money?

**Hon. Mr. Bernier:** This is a matter that we went into in some detail with the company itself. I'd have to admit I was not perfectly satisfied, myself or my staff or other members of the various ministries, with the way that the company handled new employees. I think I might say we were very firm in suggesting that the company get on immediately with some employment information and training

programmes so that the men really know what the dangers of asbestos and asbestosis can or will be in the future.

## RESIGNATION OF CONSERVATION OFFICER

**Mr. Lewis:** I have another question of the Minister of Natural Resources, if I may. Because of the controversial resignation of Pierce Plato, whose name he will know in the Chatham district conservation office, he instituted, I gather, an inquiry into the problems of commercial fishing in Lake Erie and the enforcement of the law. Can he indicate to the House when that inquiry within his ministry will be over and when the results can be tabled with the Legislature?

**Hon. Mr. Bernier:** Mr. Speaker, this was an internal request I made to my assistant deputy minister for southern Ontario, Bill Foster. He was at the meeting. I was not totally pleased or satisfied with the information reaching me; I asked him to do an in-depth study and report back to me. He has done that and I would be pleased to give the hon. member the results of that particular study.

I might say that Mr. Plato has resigned, as a result of certain differences. I might also say that he has already applied for a position in other parts of Ontario with the Ministry of Natural Resources. We are certainly considering that because he is an excellent conservation officer.

**Mr. Lewis:** Yes; you described the situation as disgraceful, as I recall, at one point.

Might I ask the minister, in the process of the investigation, did he look into the material coming from his ministry on the state of commercial fishing generally in Lake Erie; and the remarks from Mr. Gage, which were supported by Mr. Fortner, the district manager in Chatham. Mr. Gage said, some months ago, and I quote his memo to the government:

The government will likely be going to the electorate within the next six months. In the interval, any law enforcement officer

who embarks on a law enforcement crusade into an area where he has not been a strong presence will indeed soon learn that there is a fine art in timing the initiation of new plans.

Has the minister discussed with his ministry the election orientation of much that takes place? It has happened before.

**Hon. Mr. Bernier:** No, Mr. Speaker, there was no reference or discussion within my ministry about an election or the possible enforcement of any laws at that particular point in time. I have never done that. This is certainly not a point. We have a responsibility to manage resources, regardless of any political overtones that may or may not be around. That doesn't enter the picture at all.

I will say to the member with regard to fish management for Lake Erie, that is an area we have gone into in some considerable depth. In fact, very recently I have indicated to the commercial fishermen on Lake Erie that there will be some very strong corrective measures taken. Recent reports reaching me indicate they have accepted this, knowing they have to protect the fisheries of Lake Erie or their future is in jeopardy.

### HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

**Mr. Lewis:** A question of the acting Minister of Health, if I may. How is it that the minister immediately to his left, the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. J. R. Smith), knew three weeks ago of the government's intention to close the acute part of the Chedoke Hospital, and said so publicly yesterday, when that information was in fact not shared with other members from the Hamilton area; nor was it shared with members of the community in advance of the closing?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I would have to say that I really don't know; except that I would anticipate that perhaps the minister discussed it with the member for Hamilton Mountain but I didn't find out about it until Friday.

**Mr. Lewis:** That's just not the way to work.

**Mr. Deans:** Can the minister indicate whether the commitment made by the Premier (Mr. Davis) about a week ago that the hospital closings were subject to discussion and subject to reappraisal means there would be an adequate opportunity given to the citizens of Hamilton, either through the health council if they chose to act now or through some other appropriate

body, to re-evaluate the government's position as it is put forward in the most recent letter and to come up with a proposal which may be more satisfactory and deal in a better manner with the health care delivery system in that area?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member from the opposition knows that this afternoon I am meeting with representatives of Chedoke Hospital and other interested citizens, including some members of the NDP caucus and the Liberal caucus, to discuss this problem. We have also been informed by the Hamilton District Health Council that they intend to hold a meeting on April 7 to receive briefs and papers on this subject. We are about to relay to them the information that we will be delaying any decision regarding this until after we have heard from them, after their April 7 meeting.

**Mr. Deans:** Supplementary. Could I ask the minister, when she talks about delaying until after the government hears from them, is she talking about hearing from them on April 9, as was indicated in the letter; or is she prepared to give them a sufficient period of time in order that they can re-evaluate?

Let me ask a further supplementary: how can it be that the Ministry of Health and the health council, together, could approve expenditures in excess of \$2 million within a 12-month period in that facility, including the hiring of an architect to build new facilities for the very purpose of active treatment, and then turn around and make a decision to close the facility?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I'm aware that money has been spent and is in the process of being spent at that institution. I understand it was for the purpose of extending and improving the chronic care and rehabilitation—

**Mr. Deans:** No, no.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —area of that hospital and the emergency unit of that hospital. That I shall explore and get back to the member.

**Mr. Deans:** X-ray and operating facilities.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Supplementary: Is the ministry now determined to insist that the regional health council in Hamilton take on its proper responsibilities and make the decision instead of in fact abdicating its responsibility and giving it back to an altogether too-eager ministry, delighted to have its centralizing tentacles reaching out once again to Hamilton? Will the minister insist



that the regional health council make the proper decision there and take its responsibility seriously, or else dismiss them?

**Mr. Lewis:** You just order local autonomy to work; don't play around with it.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, if the leader of the Liberal Party could give me some direction about how this might be done, I think this is a manner which might be considered.

**Mr. S. Smith:** If they won't do it, you get rid of them and put in people who will.

**Mr. Lewis:** That's right.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** In fact, the former district health council did make recommendations which are very much in line with those which the ministry has suggested. The present district health council, I gather, disagrees with those. I would hope they would assume their responsibilities; that's the role of the district health council.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Insist on it. Tell them they have to do it.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, if I may, these are voluntary citizens who function on behalf of their community, in the area of improvement of health care services. As volunteers I think we should welcome their assistance and, indeed, ask for their assistance at every opportunity.

**Mr. Sargent:** They will have a lot to say.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** We should welcome their assistance.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Oh, come off it! Let them resign if they won't do the job.

**Mr. Cunningham:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Given that there are over 400 jobs and a great deal of money involved here, does the minister think that two weeks is a sufficient amount of time to make an intelligent appraisal as to the efficiency and the effectiveness of this hospital in that area?

**Mr. Deans:** Didn't you say no?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I think we should await the meeting this afternoon and the report from the meeting on April 7, and then we shall be able to give the members much more specific dates regarding this problem.

**Mr. Lewis:** In relation to this continuing matter of hospitals, may I ask the acting

Minister of Health, has she had a chance to examine carefully the growing controversy in Perth, I guess it is, in Lanark county at the Great War Memorial Hospital where the cutback originally started at over \$300,000, is now over \$200,000, and still involves the loss of the obstetrical ward? Can the minister explain why that hospital was chosen in the fashion it has been, given the amount of money it saved each year coming in under budget for the last several years? The people of the community are perplexed by the action.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge the degree of cutback in bed service in the Great War Memorial Hospital in Perth is not of the magnitude that was first suggested. In fact there will be 53 beds available for active treatment in that hospital.

As far as the obstetrical unit is concerned I have not investigated that specific aspect of it, but I shall and I shall report to the member.

#### AIR STANDARDS

**Mr. S. Smith:** Would the acting Minister of Health be able to tell us, with regard to the standards of maximum allowable exposure for arsenic in air, whether in fact the standard for ambient air has remained in Ontario 25 micrograms per cubic metre, given the fact that in the United States the maximum exposure permitted is four micrograms of arsenic per cubic metre and that is for factory workers over an eight-hour period? Normally, as you know, factory workers are supposed to be exposed to standards much—

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Question.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Question.

**Mr. S. Smith:** The question has already been asked; I'm helping her answer it.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** I have news for you; she doesn't need your help.

Interjections.

**Mr. S. Smith:** We will see that in a moment. Could the minister explain the government's excuse for allowing the Ontario standard to remain at 25 when the standard in factories in the United States is only four micrograms per cubic metre?

[2:15]

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I would have to ask whether they were using the same sorts of monitoring devices and the same standards in

terms of the equipment used. But I really am not sure that they are not equal at the moment and I promise that I shall investigate that and report to the member as well.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Supplementary: While this minister is investigating that—and perhaps the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) could help her on this—it has been reported that Canada Metal—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is this a supplementary question?

**Mr. S. Smith:** Yes. It has to do with arsenic.

**Mr. Yakabuski:** Question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Well, state the question then.

**Mr. S. Smith:** The question is, is the minister aware that Canada Metal's stack will be putting out 460 lb of arsenic a year over the surrounding neighbourhood and can she assure us that this will fall within the Ontario standard and within the American standards, especially for the surrounding neighbourhood?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I shall find that out as well.

**Mr. Germa:** You don't know very much.

#### FOOD REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

**Mr. Williams:** I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In 1970, the ministry introduced a food replacement programme to replace over \$5 million worth of imported foods into this province in the late 1970s. Could he advise what the status of this programme is at this time?

**Hon. W. Newman:** I can't give the member the total programme but I know part of the programme. We have a replacement programme for baby pickling onions which is about a \$2-million industry that we are developing here in the Province of Ontario to replace imports. We are doing some experimental work with what we call baby carrots to replace imports of baby carrots into the Province of Ontario. We've done a great deal of work with corn, but we are now on an export basis with corn in the Province of Ontario.

**An hon. member:** That's your field.

**Hon. W. Newman:** We're also doing considerable experimental work with growing peanuts down in the tobacco country as a

replacement for tobacco. We had a very successful year last year in our experimental work with peanuts.

**Mr. Lewis:** Yes, those peanuts are excellent. I am serious. They are excellent. I tried them in Guelph.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Great.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. W. Newman:** It's a multi-million-dollar business. We import them and we want to develop them here, and we are doing a great deal of work and research in that area. I can't remember what other products we have on but those are four of the major products we have on right now.

#### STATUS OF ONTARIO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS EMPLOYEES

**Mr. Mackenzie:** To the Minister of Labour: Is the minister aware of the concern of employees of the Ontario Psychiatric Hospitals that should they be moved under control of local boards the 9,000 employees involved across the province would come out from under the Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act and be under the Labour Relations Act and, as there are no automatic successor rights, they could lose all of their accrued benefits such as sick leaves, vacations, seniority and pension credits? Is the minister prepared to guarantee successor rights and protect the benefits, should this happen, and not treat them as employees of a new company or concern?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I am aware that there is a very active committee functioning on behalf of those employees at the moment which is making every effort to ensure that they will remain within the same status, and every effort is being directed toward that end at the moment.

#### SYNCRUDE PROJECT

**Mr. Sargent:** A question to the Premier: In view of the government's gesture to give Syncrude \$100 million and that \$90 million is still outstanding on this, and in view of the fact that the acting Minister of Health tells us there are still 24 hospitals on the list to be closed, etc., what is more important, the fact that the government has cut back on hospitals or Syncrude? The \$90 million left to pay could be put in the pot—



**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question has been asked.

**Mr. Sargent:** —to keep 5,000 jobs and keep the hospitals open.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Yakabuski:** Is this a speech or a question?

**Hon. Mr. Henderson:** Trudeau said, "Put it in Syncrude."

**Mr. Sargent:** Do you want it again?

**An hon. member:** Sure.

**Mr. Speaker:** No. Order, please. The hon. minister heard it, I believe.

**Mr. Sargent:** Mr. Speaker, you've got to get a better system than this. We can't hear you down here. Get citizens' band radios.

**Mr. Speaker:** I didn't hear that.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** I think I was able to hear the member for Grey-Bruce without any need to resort to a citizens' band radio or any other form of communication. I think the question was, would we re-evaluate our investment in Syncrude? It is not a gift to Syncrude, the investment being made by the public of this province in an undertaking which will hopefully add to stability of supply for the consumers of Ontario, which we think has significance for every person in this province as well as having, I think, some national importance also.

On the basis of that re-evaluation, would we do something about some 24 hospitals that are still on some list? I would only say to the member for Grey-Bruce, I don't know of any other hospitals on a list where the government is contemplating closure and I make that abundantly clear.

**Mr. Sargent:** A supplementary question: In view of the fact that the Syncrude project is a \$3-billion next-generation project, doesn't the Premier feel that his government's \$100 million is only a gesture and it is more important—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; that is not a supplementary question. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Sargent:** Just a minute, Mr. Speaker; I want an answer!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is persisting in a debate and that's not the purpose of this period.

**Mr. Sargent:** Give him a chance; he can look after himself.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please!

#### LICENSING OF LAY PREACHER TO PERFORM MARRIAGES

**Mr. Angus:** Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Further to my letter of March 10 regarding Sanadius Fiddler, a lay preacher in the town of Sandy Lake, has the ministry decided whether or not it will license this lay preacher to perform marriages in the native community?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, the letter has been referred to the registrar and we will be getting a report from him. We have made no decision on it yet, and as soon as the decision is made the hon. member will hear about it.

**Mr. Angus:** Supplementary: Is the minister or his staff aware that the licensed preacher, who must come from Thunder Bay at a cost of \$300, must have his sermon translated simultaneously by the native lay preacher?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** No, I am not aware of that and, as far as I can recall, it wasn't included in the hon. member's letter either.

**Hon. Mr. Henderson:** Misleading the House.

#### QUALITY OF EDUCATION

**Mr. Sweeney:** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Education, a question of the Premier: In view of the report released last week of a \$75,000 study by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, which showed that standards are definitely lacking in this province, can the Premier continue to justify the \$500,000 study being conducted by the Ministry of Education?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, I can't give the hon. member details with respect to any study by the ministry as it relates to the quality of education in this province. I would think that the hon. member asking the question, with his own knowledge of the subject area, would be the first one to encourage any ongoing evaluation or study within the ministry that would assist us in maintaining what is one of the highest-quality educational systems anywhere in this country and I would be sure that he would be in support of it.

An hon. member: Oh, come on.

Mr. S. Smith: A waste of taxpayers' money. It is only taxpayers' money.

Mr. Bullbrook: You don't really believe that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, I do.

Mr. Bullbrook: You don't believe it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sweeney: In view of the response given by the minister in the estimates last fall, that there is nothing wrong with the standards of education, would the Premier be prepared to admit now that in fact there is something wrong with the standards of education in the Province of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I don't want to become involved in a lengthy discussion as it relates to the quality or standards within the educational system, but I could be provoked into doing so.

An hon. member: Go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say to the hon. member that if the recent study conducted by the OSSTF indicates some concern on the part of the profession that is more directly responsible than any other single group as an organization or as individuals, including administrators, for the quality of education in this province, if they themselves are suggesting now that there should be some improvements or alterations, I find it most encouraging. And I would remind the hon. member, because he was very directly involved, that a good deal of the alterations or some of the directions for change that took place within the secondary school programme were at the initiation and insistence of the secondary school teachers here in the Province of Ontario.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And what's more, you know that it is true.

Mr. Nixon: That's the way to get into the cabinet, kid.

Mr. Bullbrook: That's how Lorne got in.

Interjections.

Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We can't hear the question.

## RACIST LITERATURE

Mr. Leluk: A question to the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker: Can the minister advise this House what progress her ministry is making regarding the recent distribution of racist literature in the Toronto and Ottawa areas on the letterhead of the fictitious Canadian Society for Commonwealth Relations?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, a letter has been sent to the Hon. Robert Andras and to the Hon. Bryce Mackasey, asking Mr. Andras's help in attempting to trace the source of this racist literature and asking Mr. Mackasey to do what he can to ensure that the mails are not used for this kind of activity.

## HOSPITAL BUDGETS

Mr. Lawlor: My first question, Mr. Speaker, is to the whole world. Has it ever occurred to the government the so-called rationalization programme would turn out to be irrational—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, direct it to a minister.

Mr. Lawlor: The particular minister, in terms of irrationality Mr. Speaker, is the acting Minister of Health. What conceivable justification has the ministry, or does it pretend to have, with respect to the splitting and destroying of the child care and adolescent units at the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I think we have a great deal of justification. As the hon. member for Lakeshore knows, the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital contains a multiplicity of services, including child psychiatry, adolescent psychiatry, in-patient and out-patient services, a very good psychiatric ambulatory unit for children and for adolescents; and it also houses a rather large institution which deals with adult psychiatric problems. Within that institution there are no provisions and no facilities, for recreational purposes, for children, nor is there any area in which they can be provided. At Thistletown there are such facilities and there is one entirely unused cottage; therefore the children, only, are being moved. The in-patient children are being moved from the Lakeshore psychiatric institution to Thistletown. There will be a unit remaining at Lakeshore for adolescents.



The separation, in fact, may be entirely useful and of great benefit to the children. It may be of even more benefit to the small children to be separated from the adult psychiatric unit. The out-patient service, for both adolescents and children, will be maintained exactly as it is, and in fact enhanced, at the Lakeshore psychiatric institution. I think that is justification enough.

**Mr. Conway:** Could the minister tell us the cost of this reorganization? Is it true that new construction will have to take place at Thistletown to accommodate them?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, no new construction will have to take place at Thistletown. The cottage is there, already built—it has, in fact, been remodelled—and the recreational facilities are there.

**Mr. Lewis:** I have a supplementary, if I may Mr. Speaker: Why does the minister not speak, in this whole discussion, of the different approach to treatment that Dr. Marcilio brought to Lakeshore and what the ministry is doing to a whole mode of child and adolescent—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Lewis:** —care at Lakeshore in transferring it to Thistletown.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition is carrying this to the status of a debate. Is there an answer to his question?

**Mr. Lewis:** I would think so.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I would say that Dr. Marcilio's programme will still be functioning at the Lakeshore institution if Dr. Marcilio remains there. The children who require in-patient treatment will be treated at Thistletown.

#### REDUCTION OF CHARGES BEFORE COURT

**Mr. Stong:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Attorney General: Tomorrow in the Supreme Court of Ontario two men are going to be sentenced on a charge of robbery, after charges of attempted murder and kidnapping were withdrawn. I have here a petition signed by over 560 people—

**Mr. Speaker:** Is there a question? That's all we need; we don't need an elaboration, just the question thank you.

**Mr. Stong:** Is the Attorney General prepared to intervene in the course of justice,

to make sure that the proper course is followed in view of this petition—which I now present to you, Mr. Speaker—so that the two people charged and to be sentenced will be properly charged and tried on the charges which best fit this crime?

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member I am not going to attempt to interfere in a matter that is now before the courts.

**Mr. Lewis:** The member wants the minister to speak to the judges? A Liberal asking someone to speak to judges?

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** The facts of this particular case are well known to me. For the hon. member for York Centre to suggest that the plea of guilty to robbery with violence was not proper in the circumstances, just indicates that he is very misinformed as to the facts of this particular case. I have reviewed the matter in some detail and I'm quite satisfied that the plea of guilty in the circumstances to robbery with violence was a proper plea, and that the Crown attorney conducted himself, again, in the best interests of the public. As to what the disposition of the matter will be, we'll simply have to await the verdict of the trial judge tomorrow.  
[2:30]

#### PUBLIC LAB CLOSINGS

**Mr. Swart:** Mr. Speaker, a question to the acting Minister of Health: In view of the trend of referring at least some of the hospital closings to health councils and also the referring of the community facilities for the retarded to health councils, is the acting Minister of Health prepared to hold the closing of the public labs in abeyance until she has a report from the health councils or the health units on the closing of these public labs?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, no.

#### HOSPITAL BUDGETS

**Mr. Eakins:** Mr. Speaker, to the acting Minister of Health: The Peterborough Civic Hospital has been cut back by \$552,000 approximately, and the Ross Memorial in Lindsay, a much smaller hospital, by \$59,300. Could the minister tell me what criteria are used in hospital cutbacks and in the Ross Memorial cutback in particular? How do they arrive at these criteria?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, it depends primarily on the number of beds necessary for the population in the area and on the number of hours service per patient which is necessary for the treatment of patients in that hospital. If either of those figures is over the reasonable average for an institution of comparable size in a comparable community then the cutbacks are suggested.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Why did you build the beds in the first place?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The member is asking a supplementary.

**Mr. Eakins:** Could the minister tell me if the large summer population has been taken into consideration in this case? Also, does this now mean that the Bobcaygeon Hillcroft Hospital will remain open?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** To answer the second question first, it does not mean that. Secondly, the summer population has most definitely been taken into consideration in all areas in which cutbacks are suggested. The information is that, in fact, the vast majority of patients treated who are summer visitors to the area do not require hospital inpatient treatment.

**Mr. Sargent:** Supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final supplementary.

**Mr. Sargent:** Will the Premier tell me how many—

**Mr. Speaker:** Oh no; order, please. That's not a supplementary to this ministry.

**Mr. Sargent:** Will the minister tell us the number of cutbacks made in the riding of Peel and Brampton?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is not a supplementary. The hon. member for Cornwall has the floor for a question.

**Mr. Sargent:** Do you know or don't you know? It's a hell of a good supplementary. Are there any cutbacks in Brampton or Peel?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member will take his seat, please. The member for Cornwall.

**Mr. Sargent:** Right on target.

#### CONDUCT OF POLICE OFFICERS

**Mr. Samis:** A question, Mr. Speaker, directed to the Solicitor General: Can the minister inform us what action he's taken to

ensure that there won't be a repetition of what happened last week in Alexandria regarding their police force and some of the things they did?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, I hope there will not be a repetition, but, contrary to the editorial in the Globe and Mail today, there are regulations governing this, and one of the regulations requires that any time a service revolver is used there must be an investigation by the local commission. That commission will be investigating the shooting in Alexandria, and I hope to have a report in due course, sir, but I can't guarantee that it will not happen again. We draw the regulations, and I might refer my friend to them; it's regulation 679 under the Police Act, and he will find it all set out in sections 9 and 10 of that. I suggest that he take a look at them. I don't know how we can do more than those regulations provide.

**Mr. Samis:** Supplementary: Would the minister be willing to table a copy of that report when he receives it?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, not knowing what may or may not be in that report, I hesitate to—

**Mr. Deans:** That is why we are asking if you will table it.

**Mr. Lewis:** Give it to Sid Handleman. He can put it through his shredder. A bunch of paranoids over there. You all need help.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Let's get on with the question period. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Occasionally, Mr. Speaker, there are matters of procedure which we don't regard as being in the best interests of the public to make public. In other words, if it was a procedural matter and we let the criminal element of our society know all the details about it, it might not be in the best interests of all of us. I do not suppose that there will be anything of that nature in the report, and really I can see no reason why that report should not be made public, but subject to that—my friend is telling me to be careful—subject to that, though, I expect I will be able to make it public.

#### CHARGES AGAINST TORONTO POLICE

**Mr. Singer:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney General. Could the Attorney General advise whether or not the Crown attorney in Toronto has reviewed the provisions of the federal Bank Act in relation to



the unusual actions of two Toronto police officers a day or two ago which led to their being charged with theft and public mischief? The particular section of the Bank Act I am referring to is one which makes it an offence to destroy or mutilate paper currency. It would seem much more appropriate if the facts are as they were related in the newspaper.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** I understand that the matters—the charges—referred to by my friend are now being reviewed by the Crown attorney in the county of York, and I am quite pleased to have his helpful suggestions in that regard.

### SMOKING AND HEALTH REPORT

**Mr. Godfrey:** A question to the acting Minister of Health: Will the minister tell us when she is prepared to release to the general public and interested organizations the report of the task force on smoking and health?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who asked the question I gather did not receive the copy that was sent to him. In actual fact, although I think we would like to release the task force report, it's a perfectly dreadful report and I am not sure that anyone is going to learn anything from it. However, the member for Durham West will have a copy and I am sure that he will distribute it to the members of his caucus.

**Mr. Godfrey:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Do I take it then that there is no intention of implementing such recommendations as the report recommends—that all billboard and newspaper advertisements of cigarettes no longer be permitted in Ontario, etc., etc., nor sponsorship by tobacco companies of athletic meets, cultural presentations and the like?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, that is not what I said.

**Mr. Lewis:** Supplementary: Since those recommendations are obviously in the realm of the desirable rather than the dreadful, why doesn't the minister release this report, and as a matter of fact, tell us how much it cost?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, it was not the recommendations which were considered dreadful. It was the body of the report which was considered dreadful.

**Mr. Lewis:** Can anybody else make that judgement?

**Mr. S. Smith:** Will the minister release the recommendations, then?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** However, those recommendations are in fact being considered, and I am sure there will be a report regarding this in the near future.

**Mr. Lewis:** What is this? You make a value judgement on its contents. It is a public document.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please, order.

### HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

**Mr. Riddell:** A question to the Premier: In the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller)—and with due respect to the acting Minister of Health, cognizant of the fact that she didn't participate in the meetings we had with the Premier—is the Premier prepared to make a decision on the proposal by the Huron county delegation in connection with the continued operation of the hospital in Clinton?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that prior to the mid-term recess I had indicated to the members opposite that there were, as I recall, four appeals or four or five delegations that made personal representations to myself and the Minister of Health and that these are being evaluated. Some decision obviously is going to be made and when that decision is made the hon. members will be fully informed.

### DOCTORS' FEES

**Ms. Sandeman:** A question for the acting Minister of Health: Is the minister aware that many doctors in the province are now charging a fee for filling out forms from the Workmen's Compensation Board, Ministry of Community and Social Services, etc., and that that fee is not payable either by OHIP or by welfare departments where that would be applicable?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I know that it is against the law to charge a fee for completing a workmen's compensation form, and if the hon. member will give me the names of the physicians involved I shall be pleased to pass them on to the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Ms. Sandeman:** Is the minister perhaps aware that one reason why the doctors are doing this is because of a sense of frustration at the complexity and the multiplicity of the forms, and they are charging a fee of the patients in many cases because they find that the Workmen's Compensation Board is asking them—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is not a true supplementary.

**Ms. Sandeman:** —three or four times for information that has already been obtained? Would the minister speak to herself in her capacity as Minister of Labour and ask herself to simplify the forms and streamline the procedure?

**Mr. Reid:** If she finds herself answering back, she's in trouble.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I really don't talk to myself very often, although there are times when I find the conversations with myself are much more interesting than those with some others across the floor.

**Mr. Lewis:** It's a good thing.

**Mr. Sargent:** You would get some crazy answers if you did.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** There's the old Lone Ranger over there.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** None the less, as a practising physician of not too long ago, I am very much aware of the frustration of physicians regarding the multiplicity of forms. I think the hon. member should know that it is not workmen's compensation forms which drive them mad; it's insurance forms and return-to-work forms required by various unions and various companies in order to allow the workmen back to work. Those are the forms which are, in fact, most troublesome to them.

**Mr. Foulds:** The insurance companies are the villains.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Windsor-Walkerville with a final supplementary.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, if I may ask the acting Minister of Health a supplementary, can the doctors charge for exemption certificates for seatbelt use?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I should think they may decide to. I know that it is not included within the OMA fee schedule, because it is just a new piece of legislation.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** They have already decided.

**Mr. Speaker:** That was hardly supplementary.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Would you believe the legal fees you guys charge cause heart attacks?

## TOBERMORY PARK

**Mr. Good:** A question of the Minister of Natural Resources. In view of the fact that the restraint programme has been in place only a few months and could not have any bearing on this, why is his ministry's Fathom Five park programme at Tobermory, the underwater park, three years behind the schedule that was proposed by the minister's former colleague, the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle)?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** It is underwater.

**Hon. Mr. Bernier:** Mr. Speaker, this is of course one of the parks, in light of our restraint programme, we had to look at very carefully. I would say to the hon. member we are working very closely with the local people and with the Ministry of Health in setting up a decompression chamber for the assistance of those divers who may want to use the park. It's still on our list, but I have to say in all honesty we will do very little until further funds become available.

**Mr. Good:** Supplementary: After the unfortunate accident there about a year and a half ago, the minister promised at that time in connection—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. What is the supplementary question?

**Mr. Good:** What steps have been taken even to begin to get the medical clinic, the administration building, the decompression chamber—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is there a question?

**Mrs. Campbell:** Yes, he is asking it.

**Mr. Good:** —and all the necessary things that are required to make this underwater park what it should be?

**Hon. Mr. Bernier:** Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we are working very closely with the local people and with the Ministry of Health in bringing this needed facility to fruition at the earliest possible point.

**Mr. Good:** A year and a half and they haven't done anything.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

**Ms. Bryden:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Treasurer. The executive co-ordinator for women's programmes, in the report which was tabled last fall—

**Mr. Good:** You are not even listed in the yellow pages under water.

**Hon. Mr. Bernier.** The whole thing is under.

**An hon. member:** We can't hear the question.

**Mr. Speaker.** If there was less noise, you could hear better.

**Ms. Bryden.** —drew attention to the fact that 38 per cent of the Ontario public service is women but there are no women managers in the civil service and only four per cent of the 778 civil servants designated as senior executives are women.

**Mr. Yakabuski:** Question? Question?

**Ms. Bryden.** I would like to ask the Treasurer if he is prepared to implement the recommendation of that report that there should be specific and separate budgets in each ministry for affirmative action to correct this imbalance?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough.** Mr. Speaker, I think this is a question which more properly should be directed to the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Auld). He is not here today but I understand he will be here tomorrow.  
[2:45]

## EDUCATION GRANTS

**Mr. Conway:** In the absence of the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells), I will direct this question to the Treasurer. What, in general terms, would the minister be prepared to commit in the area of public policy by way of compensation or special consideration for those areas like Renfrew county, which, given the economic disparity they suffer, find it very difficult, for example, to meet the education restraint demands in terms of taxation? Is the Treasurer prepared, and is the government prepared, to give special consideration to compensate for the economic disparity and difficulties they face?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Is the hon. member speaking of the education grant system?

**Mr. Conway:** Yes.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** That is a question that I think properly should be directed to the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells).

## HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

**Mr. Deans:** I wonder if the Premier could tell me who has taken the place of the former member for Hamilton West with regard to manpower policies so that I can direct a question.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** I think if the hon. member would direct that question to the acting Minister of Health and the Minister of Labour she might be able to help him.

**Mr. Deans:** Oh, you are a biggy.

**Mr. Nixon:** The lady with the answers.

**Mr. Deans:** Now that she has that problem—and very appropriate, incidentally—I wonder if she could explain to the House what policies she is prepared to introduce in the Province of Ontario to provide employment for the 5,000 or more people who will be unemployed as a result of the cuts the Minister of Health is currently making in the health field?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I cannot explain in detail at the moment the policies which the Ontario Manpower Co-ordinating Committee is in the process of developing with the federal government. As a matter of fact, we meet with Mr. Andras tomorrow morning in the hope that community employment strategy will be one of the areas which we can explore with some benefit in two specific areas in the province.

**Mr. Deans:** A supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** All right, one supplementary, then we'll switch off.

**Mr. Deans:** Would it be possible for the minister to give us but one example of one policy that is either in place or about to be put in place in this province that will provide employment for any of the 5,000 who will be unemployed as a result of the cuts the government is making in connection with her portfolio in health?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The policies of the government regarding assistance in readjustment of individuals who have been laid off or who have lost employment are policies as such. We do not have make-work programmes.

**Mr. Deans:** I'm not asking that; I'm asking for one policy.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** We do, in fact, utilize the services of the federal Manpower agency, the counselling services within that agency, and other counselling agencies and employment agencies in order to provide employment.

**Mr. Deans:** The minister is wasting her time.

**Mr. Speaker:** I recognize the member for Halton-Burlington with a question.

### MILTON CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

**Mr. Reed:** I have a question of the Minister of Correctional Services. What action is the minister taking in response to the grand jury report of March 17, 1976, concerning the Milton jail and courthouse, in which a number of rather desperate situations were listed as to the condition of that very antiquated building and the condition of at least one of the inmates at the time?

**Hon. J. R. Smith:** All grand jury reports are fully investigated. I'll follow it up.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please, we're a minute over the question period now.

**An hon. member:** We deserve an answer to that.

**Mr. Good:** Will you go on for two minutes?

**Mr. Speaker:** We'll be here tomorrow.

**Mr. Singer:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** On a point of order, the member for Wilson Heights.

**Mr. Singer:** I wonder if you, sir, could do anything about the sound system in this chamber?

**Mr. Speaker:** Actually we are having some difficulties, which doesn't need to be said.

**Mr. Sargent:** I can do better than that. I can yell louder.

**Mr. Speaker:** We hope it will be better tomorrow. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

### POINT OF PRIVILEGE

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, just as an aside, while I'm upon a point of privilege, I wanted to point out to the members—I'm sure on all sides of the House they would share it—that the House should observe that the father of a very famous hockey player is with us in the galleries. Syl Apps Jr's father has made it to the Legislature again and should be applauded.

**Mr. Speaker:** I want to appeal to you briefly to take a look, in your official capacity as Speaker, at the secretiveness which surrounds the government in its behaviour over general documents which should be public and indeed are in the process of their formation considered to be.

**Mr. S. Smith:** What is that a point of?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sure the hon. member knows that's not within my purview.

**Mr. Lewis:** I'm not so sure it's not within your purview and I want to ask it. I won't prolong it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very briefly then.

**Mr. Lewis:** I would like you to use the one instance which was raised today of a government document which has been in their hands for over a year and had to be released by press conference by other agencies this morning, a document in their hands for over a year which was designed by terms of reference for public agencies, voluntary groups and others in the field but never released by government. I think, Mr. Speaker, that there is something to be said for an effort to see what happens with the government in the requisition of such documents and I would ask you to take a look at this case as an example of it.

**Mr. MacDonald:** There's a simple solution. Bring in a freedom of information Act to protect yourself against yourself.

**Mr. Speaker:** That's the answer I suppose.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** I shall consider if it's within my sphere of jurisdiction.

Presenting reports.



Hon. Mr. Timbrell, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Welch, presented the annual reports of the Ontario Science Centre for the year ending March 31, 1973, and for the year ending March 31, 1974; and of the Ontario Education Communications Authority for the year ending March 31, 1975.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motions.

Introduction of bills.

### ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Ontario Energy Board Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to amend section 37(a) of the Ontario Energy Board Act which concerns the review by the Ontario Energy Board of a proposal by Ontario Hydro to change the rates which it charges to its customers. As you know, Mr. Speaker, in 1975 Ontario Hydro's proposal for rates effective on and after Jan. 1, 1976, were referred after an OEB review to a select committee of the Legislature.

In December, the select committee recommended that as an interim measure Ontario Hydro be allowed to increase its bulk power rate by 22 per cent on Jan. 1, 1976. The term of the select committee was extended until March 31, 1976, and a further extension for the select committee to report by May 31, 1976, has been made.

Since the select committee, Mr. Speaker, will not complete its final report until May 31, 1976, it is not considered practical for Ontario Hydro to file its proposal to change rates for 1977 on or before May 1, 1976, as currently required by section 37(a) of the Ontario Energy Board Act. Therefore, the purpose of the amendment I have introduced today is to change the date for filing from May 1 to July 1. This change would be applicable only to 1977.

The amendment, Mr. Speaker, will also move the date for an interim report of the Ontario Energy Board on the proposals from Sept. 1 to Oct. 1, again only for the purposes of 1977. All of this is necessitated, Mr. Speaker, I repeat, by the extension of the select committee's life.

### McMASTER UNIVERSITY ACT

Mr. Nixon moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting McMaster University.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

### BOROUGH OF YORK ACT

Mr. MacDonald moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Borough of York.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

### MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Bullbrook moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Municipal Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

### ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, OTTAWA, ACT

Mr. Drea, on behalf of Mr. Morrow, moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I would like to table the answer to question No. 15 on the order paper. (See appendix, page 701.)

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

**Clerk of the House:** The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

### THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

**Mr. Ferrier:** Mr. Speaker—

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** I will tell everybody what really went on at that meeting.

**Mr. Ferrier:** I would love to have the Premier tell them, because—

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Tell them the truth.

**Mr. Ferrier:** I always do. The Premier wouldn't suggest that I would say anything else but, would he?

Mr. Speaker, I would first of all like to congratulate you on your performance in the Legislature. You certainly are carrying out a very difficult job in an impartial way and you do have the confidence of the members of the assembly. We are very pleased with the work that you are doing. You certainly have an expanded role now that the legislative buildings and the services to members are directly under your jurisdiction. I think those of us who have been around here for a little while are quite pleased that members are getting more attention and the working conditions under which we carry out our responsibilities are much more conducive to getting things accomplished. So we hope you carry on your work in the usual high standards we have come to expect and appreciate from you.

In another week's time we will be voting on the non-confidence motion and the amendment to that motion as put forward by the Liberal Party. We have seen the Liberal Party do a lot of fancy footwork in the last couple of weeks and we'll be interested to see how their members actually vote on this amendment to the amendment.

I think those of us in the House will be extremely interested as to what goes on. Some of those who are in areas where there have been cutbacks in hospital services—like the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell), I believe, and the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent), and the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock), and even the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), will be interested to see whether they have confidence in the government over the way the people in their riding have been treated by shutting down of the hospitals there, and whether they feel the government does have the confidence of the people, and whether the people of this province would like to have a chance to express their feelings at the polls.

[3:00]

People I talked to are quite happy at going to the polls, because our area of the province has been given some pretty tough blows by this government; they've been given blows that were not talked about during the election campaign. In fact up in our area the things that were promised and the things that were going to be done by the Tory candidate, suggested nothing of restraint. What the government has done is the exact opposite of what was put forward in our area.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that probably both parties, the Liberals and the Con-

servatives, are afraid to go to the electorate at this time because they both know they will stand to lose support, and lose it drastically.

**Mr. Ruston:** Are you, Bill?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Do you want an election?

**Mr. Ferrier:** In fact, I'd be very surprised if they can even get a Liberal candidate up in my area this time.

Interjections.

**Mr. Ferrier:** And I'd also be very surprised if they got a Conservative.

**Mr. Ruston:** I think you were in trouble up there. I was up there a few weeks ago.

**Mr. Ferrier:** You fellows won't even get a candidate up there this time. They had an awful time last time; finally, at the last—

**Mr. Ruston:** Don't be too secure; don't be too sure.

Interjections.

**Mr. Ferrier:** It doesn't matter whether they have one or not; the Liberal Party in the northeast is almost a thing of the past now.

**Mr. Deans:** It's the same all over.

**Mr. Ferrier:** I must say, Mr. Speaker, that the riding I represent was very thrilled in February when one of our citizens, Cathy Kreiner, won the gold medal in the giant slalom and brought real honour and tribute to our area, and to Ontario and to Canada. I would like to thank the Premier and the government for the warm recognition and honour accorded to her from the Province of Ontario. She certainly won the hearts, if she had not already done so, of the people of Timmins. I never saw the community so warm and pleased with any of its citizens and the wonderful things she brought to us. She brought out a sense of pride and joy and happiness in her accomplishment. We all continue to wish her well and look forward to even greater victories from her.

We are in the period of rapid growth and development in the Timmins area, because of the expansion that is contemplated for Texasgulf, where there will be a copper smelter and refinery. There will also be a fertilizer plant built. Originally it was to be \$500 million or \$600 million—

**Mr. Nixon:** Are you in charge of that?



**Mr. Ferrier:** I have been told by—I think he is now a vice-president of Texasgulf—that when they break the champagne bottle against the new facilities, he'd be glad to have me come and break the bottle.

**Mr. Nixon:** That's good thinking, because you voted against your party to get them some help. You remember the NDP didn't want to help up there.

**Mr. Ferrier:** We're all entitled to one mistake, Bob. Even you made one mistake.

**Mr. Nixon:** I just wanted to be sure you didn't forget that.

**Mr. Ferrier:** In fact it's a bottle of champagne that was donated by Inco, so that will be quite an occasion.

**Mr. Nixon:** You'd be in favour of breaking that.

**Mr. Ferrier:** The construction programme is soon to get under way. We're expecting up to 1,500 construction workers, some with their families, to come to our area, to live in our midst and to contribute to the economy. At the same time it's going to put serious strains on facilities we do have in terms of housing, in terms of sewage—trunk sewers—roads and this kind of thing. For this reason it is vitally important that there be a developmental agreement signed between the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the Treasury of this government.

We have talked about getting an agreement signed for the northeast and the Timmins area for a long, long time. Various Treasurers have said they have been working on it and have been trying to push it through.

About two months ago the federal Liberal member in my riding got on television and he said the province was the one that was all at fault. He said that if they would do a little more there would be no problem getting the money and he could get the money, I think—if there was any problem at the federal level he would get on the phone and give them hell and in about half an hour the money would be there. So we did a little bit of looking into the matter and we find the Ottawa government has not been as co-operative and as willing to sign an agreement as they say they are.

I must say that I think that the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) has run into some problems with a lack of adequate response from the federal government. The next thing we heard was the federal member for Cochrane—

**Mr. Nixon:** Another great name; great member.

**Mr. Ferrier:** Yes, he is a great member. A great supporter of yours, Bob. He really went out of his way to help you.

**Mr. Nixon:** Right. We have been friends for years.

**Mr. Ferrier:** He said he would vote against and work against any money coming from DREE under an agreement in connection with some sewers for the Timmins area. It seems the federal Liberals are not too anxious in proceeding to help the Timmins area as they ought to be.

**Mr. Nixon:** If it weren't for that Texasgulf wouldn't have been able to expand at all. Look at all that federal money going to Texasgulf.

**Mr. Bain:** Taxpayers' money, not federal.

**Mr. Ferrier:** Texasgulf got \$9.2 and some million. I think we should revise again David Lewis' statement about corporate welfare bums, because anything welfare people get by way of assistance is less than peanuts by what we are still giving to the big corporations in this country.

**Mr. Nixon:** They are giving them jobs up there, I understand. Aren't there any jobs?

**Mr. Ferrier:** Oh, there is the odd one.

**Mr. Nixon:** It's expanding.

**Mr. Ferrier:** Yes, it is expanding.

**Mr. Nixon:** It's necessary, you just said.

**Mr. Ferrier:** Yes, that's necessary, but one would wonder—

**Mr. Nixon:** How can you have it both ways? Are you going to get jobs or not?

**Mr. Ferrier:** —with such a rich ore body, whether you need to have this kind of give-away to the big corporations. I know Bob, that you have always been in favour of giving the money to the big boys. You are not—

**Mr. Nixon:** But you voted with us on that against your people.

**Mr. Ferrier:** You would even outdo Mitch Hepburn when he was in this House in giving to the mining companies. In those days Hollinger Mines were making 50 per cent profit on their production; that's how good Mitch was to the mining companies and you wouldn't be any less good.

Mr. Nixon: The north was really booming in those days.

Mr. Bain: And Mitch would send in the OPP every chance he got.

Mr. Ferrier: Bob would rather ride with the—what was it?—walk with the workers than ride with General Motors.

Mr. Nixon: I walk with the farmers.

Mr. Ferrier: I don't know whether the farm community would be so happy with your close tie-in with the corporate sector or not.

But anyway, we are getting very concerned in our area about this DREE/TEIGA agreement being signed. We hope that the Treasurer and the Chairman of Cabinet (Mr. Brunelle) will utilize their influence and their pressure to bring this to a head. The province has promised about \$2 million in regional priorities grants to help with the programme this year and that certainly is welcomed, but there could be considerably more made available if this agreement was signed and the two senior levels of government would move in there and give the assistance that is needed.

We would call upon the government to keep after the federal government to get this agreement signed and to get the money for the substructure that is needed to help us in the Timmins area.

The major blow we have suffered in the northeast this year is the government's shutting down of the Northeastern Regional Mental Health Centre. I don't intend to go into that in great detail because I went into that the other night in the Health estimates, but this is a blow in terms of jobs. There were 223 people employed when that was a psychiatric facility and on Wednesday of this week they will all be gone. It is turned over to a schedule 2 mentally retarded centre and there will be just 54 people employed to keep that going until July or August, at which time they expect to bring in a few mentally retarded residents. The most it will go up to in terms of staff complement will be about 110. We are a net loser of over 100 jobs in the government's closing of the psychiatric facility.

I think that from the amount the mentally retarded group are intending to use that hospital, if it was under-utilized in psychiatric care it will be more than under-utilized in the hands of the mentally retarded. One of the reasons given for closing it down was that it was under-utilized. The government has that facility there and I think it

has got to be utilized to its full capacity, if it is going to be an economic institution in this province. The administrator of the mental health hospital has said that and made that recommendation and I think the government is going to have to utilize that very fully.

A lot of people are going to be out of work as of Wednesday of this week and of those who have got jobs, some have had to compete for their own jobs and a lot of them have seen other people come in and take their jobs, people who didn't have the same seniority. Some who were even probationary employees in the Ministry of Health have come in and taken jobs in the mentally retarded institution. There is a lot of dissatisfaction among some of those workers, so much so that I understand last week the employment standards people of the Ministry of Labour were called in to investigate some of these complaints. It's a loss of jobs, a loss of benefits and a loss of credits that have accrued to those workers. A lot of older people who are out of a job, and who support a sick husband or are the sole support of a family, will not have a job, and that's pretty disappointing.

One of the reasons Mr. Spooner was so insistent on the hospital being there was that it would provide a different kind of employment for people who were not able to do the heavy work in the mines, who perhaps had injuries or were not in the best of health and would have an alternative kind of employment. Those kinds of people are now the kind who are hurt by this close-down, and it's most discouraging.

As far as services to the area are concerned, it is proposed that there be a team working out of the health unit, I believe in New Liskeard, and there's to be a team working out of the Sensenbrenner Hospital in Kapuskasing and another team working in Timmins in a 20-bed psychiatric unit. It was hoped that a psychiatrist who was at Northeastern would continue and look after this 20-bed unit and be on a consultation basis for Kapuskasing and for New Liskeard, but he has decided he is moving away and so he is not going to be there.

[3:15]

There was a young doctor, who has most of his work completed for his psychiatric specialty, doing private practice in Timmins and a lot of work was going to be on his shoulders. He's decided to leave April 1, so the only psychiatrist who will be serving the area will be a psychiatrist in North Bay, and general practitioners will be doing all the



work in the northeast. I think that's a real cutback in quality of services and scope of services.

It's a real anxiety to those people who have already had a member of their family sent to North Bay for in-hospital treatment. It's difficult to visit, it's a real inconvenience and it's a real expense, but those are some of the consequences of this move. I suspect we've only heard the beginning of the protest as far as the people of the northeast are concerned. I can say that this party is going to do all it can to try to get adequate psychiatric services restored to the northeast and undo a lot of the harm that's been done by this government.

For this reason, the people in my riding would like to go to an election as early as possible, because they're pretty fed up with the kind of rotten treatment that's been perpetrated on us by this move. They were angrier still when the government was going to take away 25 active treatment beds at St. Mary's Hospital and make it more difficult for us to attract any specialists or to provide any kind of extra services by way of specialties for our people, rather than always having to come down south. That was a mistake, the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) said, and he has referred that order to the health council to further investigate and make recommendations. It certainly didn't win many friends for the government and it's made the people pretty suspicious of anything the government is proposing by way of health care services for our area.

The children's programme? It's still not clear what's going to happen to replace the child care programme that Northeastern had. When we have serious restraints of a 5.5 per cent budget increase on the Children's Aid Society and have taken away from them the support service they relied on very heavily for assessment and diagnostic purposes and consultation purposes—with some other unknown group supposedly to come in and supply it but it's not being there—one can realize the dissatisfaction of people in the Children's Aid Society circle as far as this government's concern about the children goes and how they're going to have such a difficult time to even come near to living within that budget constraint.

I understand that certain efforts may be made to give some of these boards a little extra because of extenuating circumstances. I made that suggestion to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) when he was in Timmins, and he shot that down saying: "Oh, you don't have any unique

problems here. Everybody wants something extra for his own riding." But I can tell you when there are extenuating circumstances any minister worth his salt will at least recognize them. I hope he's had something of a conversion, because he was pretty arrogant that day until I got up and spoke, and then he began to realize that instead of sending his insulting remarks our way maybe he'd better change his tactic, which he did, and he was able to sell his programme a little but not very much.

One thing that has disturbed me about the cutbacks in the social services is they're saying that people on welfare had better take the jobs that are available for them. Of course, if there is a job then certainly we believe that an able-bodied person should be able to go and work at that job. But I have run into a couple of instances in my riding that make my blood boil, and I don't think that any government would condone this kind of action by a welfare administrator.

A man got laid off his job; there was some dispute as to the reasons for it, but he got laid off. Whether he had alcohol on his breath or not, I don't know, but they laid him off. So the man went to look for a job down in the Orillia area and he had paid off his commitments at home before he went to get this job in Orillia. Well, the job in Orillia didn't materialize—and he was looking for quite some time. In the meantime, what funds he had had run out and I don't believe the unemployment insurance had come in. The family was at home with no food and the rent wasn't paid; the wife applied for welfare and she was turned down. The Children's Aid were called in and they in turn suggested she call the Salvation Army; the Salvation Army had to put \$100 of groceries into that home where there was a woman and children with nothing and the husband was away looking for work. Maybe he should have stayed at home and sat on his hands and not looked for work. At any rate, I brought it to the attention of the people in the Ministry of Community and Social Services down here and I suggested that they also should go to the board of review, and I believe some assistance was given.

Then, a week ago, another call came about the same administrator in the Cochrane district. A man from Iroquois Falls went out west and got himself a job. With the first two weeks' pay he thought he would have money to send back home to his family, but they took all the money in his paycheque to pay his travelling expenses and so on to the west, and he had nothing to send back. Back in Iroquois



Falls was a woman without any fuel and without any food; her brothers and sisters were looking after her. Finally, the children's allowance came and she was able to buy some oil. I got in touch with the Ministry of Community and Social Services down here and they suggested two weeks' emergency assistance.

Now, if a man is out looking for work and he gets a job, but there are difficulties, then I don't see why they can't tide the family over in a difficult set of circumstances, rather than let people get down to nothing. Where there are children involved, I think we have got to support these kinds of families and encourage a man who is trying to get work or who gets work and keep him working so he will be a productive member of society.

I hope this government's programme does not go to that extent, where it discourages those who are trying. The major emphasis has got to be to provide jobs and make more jobs available. One of the major points is that there are a whole bunch of people in the health care field who have been laid off, and it is going to be a difficult time for our people. So when we lay off people by deliberate government policy on one hand and then we tell them that other people have got to find jobs, then for goodness' sake we have got to make sure there are jobs there for them; or if there are not jobs there for them, then we have got to look after our people until there are.

This cutback in the social services field is difficult in our area because the homes for aged need to consider additions and rebuilding to look after the chronic care patients, to make the homes for the aged more than chronic hospitals, which they are becoming. But we shall have to forego that because of this restraint programme. That's one of the things that is difficult to swallow as far as this restraint programme is concerned, that services to people are put away down at the bottom of the priority list.

Another thing that continues to aggravate and does not get resolved is this stupid distinction between disabled and non-employable as far as receiving family benefits is concerned. Their needs are similar and they should have the same degree of support. Nobody out there understands it; and I don't blame them for not understanding it because it's a most unfair and an unjust way of treating people. The sooner that distinction is done away with, the better. I think members on all sides of the House have tried to convince the government that it's wrong. If this government can't renegotiate the agreement with the federal government, then

it should go it alone and see that this group of people does get some justice.

We have talked about doctors having to sign forms. To get themselves reconsidered disabled as distinct from unemployable, they have to take a form to a doctor to get signed. Some people have been in to see me and said "I have had the doctor sign three and four forms and he's getting tired of it. He's going to throw me out of the office." We create bureaucracy by this; and it's such an unjust and unnecessary category and distinction to make. We're all very angry and the government surely should soon do away with that.

Another thing that has bothered the people of all of the north—Sudbury, Thunder Bay and all up through the north—is this government's decision to postpone educational television in northern Ontario. They're going ahead with the programme down here in the south and will guarantee that all the transmitters they plan to build in places like Chatham and elsewhere down here will get built. Down in the south people are usually within driving distance of a number of cultural activities that they can go to and take advantage of them. Those kinds of cultural opportunities are not available in anywhere the same degree in the north. In our area, cable television has not come on in a very big way; and in addition, even when it does come in not everybody is going to take it.

The cutback to save, I believe about \$2.5 million in northern Ontario for this government, by cutting us out of educational television, when it has already spent about \$900,000 to do the preliminary work, is all going to be wasted, because unless the government proceeds the money is all gone. That's some kind of economics and management. To single us out and to deprive us of something the government is going to give to the rest of the province down here in the south makes our blood boil. We know again it is discriminating against the north; we're the poor country cousins who are being left out. The government doesn't care about us and the northern communities are extremely annoyed. I think the government could very well go ahead with that programme and look after our needs.

One of the recommendations Judy LaMarsh is going to make, from what she said on television in Timmins, is that there is a problem of violence in the media and because it is having a detrimental effect on people—on children and that—and because we do not have very many TV channels and because other cultural opportunities are not there, we



do need educational television; and she is recommending it for northern Ontario.

The decision to cut back is most unfair. It is unjust and I ask the government to reconsider that. I have written to them and I know people of all stripes in the north are very distraught at the decision to do us out of educational television. If necessary, I think a special grant could be made available from Wintario to provide the capital funding to make educational television available in northern Ontario. That's culture; it's going to do a lot more good than some of the grants that are being given now. Reconsider that and see what can be done.

[3:30]

The leader of this party in his address of two weeks ago made another unusually fine speech, particularly documenting again the problems of occupational health and the lack of proper enforcement by the Ministry of Natural Resources. It was only when the Minister of Health got extremely tough and wasn't prepared to fool around with these Natural Resources people who continually make excuses for the mining companies that they got any action at the United Asbestos plant in Matachewan.

The number of people who are suffering chest problems as a result of their exposure to silica in the gold mines, in the Elliot Lake mines, and who have asbestosis from their exposure in the Reeves Mine in Timmins and the Munro Mine in the Matheson area—and now this mine in Matachewan—is just legion. The mining industry has not been concerned about its workers. It will do anything possible to make a buck, but the worker is expendable and the industry doesn't care what happens to him or how his health is impaired or how that disadvantages his wife and family.

What the mining companies have perpetrated on the people of this province who are in the mining industry is a very sad tale. The sooner the Ministry of Natural Resources takes its enforcement provisions seriously and does something about it, the better it will be.

You would think after all that went on over a year ago—the fights we had and the minister's setting up of the Ham commission—that they would not tolerate any of these blatant violations of government standards any longer. After the issue was fought as it was in the last election, surely an intelligent government would make sure that the kind of damage perpetrated against workers would stop. But here we just have another example of the indifference of the Ministry of Natural

Resources. Only when somebody else brings it out into the open and makes a public issue of it do we get any action. I think there were some changes in that ministry after the Elliot Lake situation and it appears there should be a lot more changes. The miners of this province should be properly protected in their work place against unsafe working conditions.

There was concern in my area over the pricing of natural gas. I know the price went up considerably because of the wellhead price in Alberta and this was only passed on by the Energy Board, but some of the prices in Timmins were beyond rhyme or reason, it appears. There was a lot of anger and the council asked that I bring it up in the House. I know that they met with people of Northern and Central. It just seems that the consumers are getting it on the nose and the Energy Board is supposed to be protecting us. Sometimes one wonders if they do.

I could go on for quite a length of time but I think I've dealt with the issues that particularly concern the people of my riding and why we feel that we haven't confidence in this government. We would be very happy to have a chance to express ourselves at the polls and give a message to this Conservative government that it's had the biscuit and we don't want any more of it and we would like to send it packing. They were given a good jolt in September last year and we would like to give them the final jolt by an election this spring.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Niagara Falls.

**Mr. Kerrio:** I am proud to represent the constituency of Niagara Falls, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to reaffirm my commitment to my constituents that I will represent Niagara impartially and in the best interests of all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) for his personal interest and I would like to tell our leader, if he were here at this time, that I would be loyal to his cause and support him in the future of this party.

I would like to pay tribute to those who dedicated themselves to my campaign and subsequent election. You can appreciate the fact that the unseating of the Attorney General of this province was not a singlehanded effort. The complete dedication to my campaign by many of my friends and acquaintances was certainly a revelation to me and I will be forever grateful.

I would further like to congratulate the Speaker on his appointment to a most difficult

task. His impartiality and fairness is obvious to all members of the assembly, and at times the House is a difficult one to control. I would join those who have already thanked him for his patience and understanding.

In this session's Speech from the Throne, the government stated that we faced some critical economic realities and must adjust our priorities, and there was a need to streamline government programmes to prune out redundancies or waste which may arise. I must confess that I thought perhaps some of the Liberal Party's campaign literature from the last election had been incorporated in the Throne Speech. We were constantly calling upon the government to be financially responsible, to cut down on bureaucratic waste and extravagance.

Obviously some of the financial problems which the province has experienced can be put down to worldwide inflation, but the government of Ontario has been guilty of gross mismanagement of the taxpayers' money in recent years and has made no attempt to be financially responsible.

Since 1971, the government has paid lip service to the need to maintain firm control over public spending, of exercising restraint, of coming to grips with the problem of inflation. Yet over that same period government spending has continued to increase out of all proportion to the services which are provided to the people of Ontario.

In the four years from 1970 to 1974, the province's accumulated net debt more than doubled, from \$1.4 billion to \$2.9 billion, and by March, 1975, this had risen to \$3.5 billion. Deficit financing may be all very well over the short term, but for a wealthy province like Ontario to have deficits totalling in excess of \$6 billion over the last five years is surely an indication that the government's management of the taxpayers' money leaves a great deal to be desired.

The former Auditor General, Maxwell Henderson, chairman of the special programmes review committee, has warned the government public spending has gotten out of hand; and the committee's report, tabled in the Legislature last November, made nearly 200 recommendations of methods which might hopefully bring the situation under control.

Typically, the government has been very selective in the recommendations of this report which are to be given priority. They have arrogantly ignored constructive suggestions which reduce bureaucratic extravagance, choosing rather to implement financial cut-backs which severely affect the services pro-

vided to our communities. Hospitals are being closed down regardless of local needs. Municipalities are faced with serious financial problems because of the reduction in anticipated government support. Mr. Henderson himself has taken the government to task for failing to give priority to putting its own financial house in order. He was absolutely right when he said:

Our present political leaders are downright irresponsible to think they can spend our hard-earned tax dollars so recklessly. All it does is fuel our domestic inflation still further.

The sad part of it all is that so much of the hardship which is being caused by the government's current restraint programme could have been avoided if some attention had been paid to opposition-called-for financial responsibility in the past.

Like many other people in this province I'm seriously concerned about the shortcomings of our present education system. There was some comment on the floor of the Legislature today, and the Premier (Mr. Davis) was attempting to justify spending some \$500,000 in doing a report which, if in fact the system was well accepted as he would suggest, would not be needed.

In recent years we have heard a great deal about modern methods of teaching and learning. Those of us who expressed reservations about drastic changes in time-tested methods were made to feel that we were old-fashioned and not sufficiently knowledgeable about the subject. Yet today, with education taxes at an all-time high, it is generally accepted that there are many and very serious problems. Teachers complain that students cannot read, write, spell or do simple arithmetic; high-school credits have been described as meaningless, with the high-school graduation diploma referred to as a useless piece of paper by many people.

Even at the university level, professors have found that many students cannot read or write properly. We owe it to our children and young people to ensure that they receive the best possible education at every level, from primary school to university. Let's get away from putting the emphasis on school buildings and equipment and give priority to the vital and essential part of the educational system—the students and the teachers.

I'm sorry that today the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch) isn't here because I would direct this question to him. It's one of grave consequence to me. As the Liberal critic of Culture and Recreation I have a personal commitment to bring as much



pressure as possible to bear on the minister to redirect lottery funds to more needful use. How in all conscience can we close hospitals and labs, and cut back on health care, and still continue to buy the frivolous activities in the "Try Us" branch of the government?

The decision of another branch of this ministry to cut back on the educational TV services to Peterborough, North Bay, Timmins and the Soo is a disastrous blow to these areas. It would seem that these areas had the most need initially because of the limited access to research facilities that exist in many areas of the province. I feel that in fact those TV programmes should have been initiated and started in the north. In the restraint programme as it exists today, I'm afraid the third phase will be cut, which is the service to the north.

In other areas of interest to me, as a member of the Liberal housing committee I would criticize the ministry in regard to the open-ended programme of first-home ownership. We will never control the economy as long as open-ended programmes are to be initiated. The validity of the programme is not in question, but if we are ever to balance this budget we must in fact establish the need and the funding that is necessary, and have the courage to stay within those limits.

After the last provincial election, members of our three political parties in this House were saying that we must all get together to make minority government work in Ontario. Historically speaking, minority governments have had fairly good legislative records, and certainly here in Canada a lot of very important legislation has been passed by minority governments.

During the first session of this Legislature the prospects of effective minority government were quite hopeful. Because of the change in the balance of power here in the Legislature government members and ministers attended the House on a more regular basis. Combined with the enthusiastic participation by the greatly enlarged opposition, this meant that we had some very constructive debates and some very important amendments were made to government legislation because the opposition members were able to exert some pressure.

[3:45]

It seems the honeymoon is now over. The government has chosen to embark on a financial restraint programme with little regard for its human and social consequences. Hospitals are being closed down arbitrarily and in the face of a tremendous outcry from the

communities affected. Municipalities are seriously concerned about their financial problems because of the reduced rate of increase in transfer payments. Mill rates are likely to increase, programmes are threatened and essential services will almost certainly have to be reduced. Meanwhile, opposition attempts to influence government action are being completely disregarded.

We are living in difficult times. Many of our traditional values and standards seem to have gone by the board. Violence and crime are on the increase. Inflation is a worldwide threat to stability and to people's way of life. There is considerable labour unrest. Just recently, we witnessed an enormous demonstration in Ottawa by members of the CLC protesting against the federal government's imposition of the anti-inflation guidelines. We hear talk of a three-day general strike. Where is this all going to end? What kind of a society are we building for our children?

Is this the time for the kind of political games we have been engaged in in the past few weeks? The Premier says it won't be the government's fault if we're forced into an election. Are the opposition parties to be blamed if the government, knowing full well the implications of the minority government situation, fails to respond to the criticisms and objections of the opposition members? Are we to be held responsible because the government is performing major surgery on the province's health budget using an axe rather than a scalpel? Is it our fault the government has been spending the taxpayers' money with such abandon in recent years that drastic and immediate action is necessary in a panic-stricken attempt to bring some kind of order out of this chaos?

Make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker, if we are plunged into an election campaign in the near future we shall all be equally to blame. The government will be guilty because the Premier and his colleagues chose to fly in the face of the expressed objections to government policy by the opposition parties, knowing that there is a risk of the government being brought down by a combined vote of the opposition members. The New Democratic Party will be responsible because they persist in playing the game of brinkmanship, taking it for granted that the Liberal Party will avoid lighting the fuse to the explosive situation that they, the NDP, have helped to create. The Liberal Party will be responsible because we have failed to persuade the government to act in a responsible and humane manner.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** The nature of the sound system in the chamber today is such that I feel almost tempted to move the adjournment of the debate. I would not want to deprive the members opposite, however, of the pearls of wisdom I am about to cast in their direction and, therefore, I will struggle through as best I can.

**Mr. Nixon:** I am not sure that I like that allusion. Are you going to explain your liquor policy?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** It's strange, Mr. Speaker, that we've been sitting here for some six months now and this is the first opportunity I've had to congratulate you on the assumption of your office. Having cut my legislative teeth under the supervision of the Speaker, I know that the office will be handled with dignity, integrity and fairness.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the mover and seconder of Her Honour's address. The member for Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) is an old colleague of ours from eastern Ontario, a veteran of the federal House and the provincial Legislature. He acquitted himself honourably in his motion. And, of course, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), is carrying on a tradition—not a dynasty but a tradition—in this House. He acquitted himself very well, including his critical comments concerning the government. Having been in that position myself, where I felt constrained to criticize the government from time to time, I understand the position he's in.

**Mr. Grande:** He's going to quit.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** We're dealing with the Speech from the Throne and I would like to deal very briefly with the amendment proposed by the leader of the Liberal Party on Tuesday, March 16, and in particular with item one of that amendment. I understand some of my colleagues may be dealing with the other points in that amendment, as well as the amendment of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis). I would like to deal particularly with the one in which the leader of the Liberal Party said:

This House further condemns the government for its financial irresponsibility in forcing Ontario municipalities and school boards to increase inordinately the property tax on homeowners and tenants.

Of course, the key word in there, and the one that I disagree with completely, is the word "forcing." I see no compulsion on the part of this government placed on municipali-

ties or school boards. I want to speak particularly about my own constituency—

**Mr. Reid:** You mean you are not going to support our amendment?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** —because I am not as familiar with all of the constituencies in Ontario as I would like to be, although I have learned a great deal about them in the past two years. But I must say that I know the two municipalities in my constituency very well. I want to say that those two municipalities and the townships of March and Nepean have embarked on the most grandiose spending programmes you have ever seen in your life.

I have tried to maintain contact with those two municipalities because as their representative in the Legislature I should know what is going on, and I have watched with increasing amazement the priority as reflected in some of the council decisions. Each of those two municipalities has a locally-elected council. They are fully responsible and accountable to the people in the two townships. Therefore, what they are doing is perfectly within their power and there can be no suggestion whatsoever that this province has forced some of those decisions on them.

I would like just to outline some of the things they are doing, so that the members of this House will know whether or not this government is forcing municipalities to raise taxes. Further, when they run out of ideas on their own they join together to run other grandiose spending schemes jointly, so that the taxpayers of both of the municipalities will be burdened.

**Mr. Nixon:** They pretty uniformly disapproved of your actions too.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Oh, I have heard that.

**Mr. Moffatt:** It may be a Liberal council.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Yes, most of them are.

I am just going to deal with the most recent one at some length because it is a fairly controversial scheme.

**Mr. Nixon:** Trying to defend his flank or something.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** The most recent ambitious project to be joined in by the two townships is known as the national capital equestrian centre. I heard the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) talk about culture and recreation.



**Mr. Nixon:** That is like the old boys' football team you are using Wintario money to send overseas.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** They are trying to get Wintario money at the present time.

**Mr. Nixon:** If there was any political advantage for you they would get it.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** If that centre is carried to its completion as planned by the two municipalities, my constituency would be the equestrian capital of the world.

**Mr. Nixon:** You could ride two horses at once.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Not yet. Montreal at the present time has the Olympic facility but we are going to outdo that.

You wouldn't believe, Mr. Speaker, that they propose to spend \$1.5 million to provide what private enterprise is already providing in sufficient quantity in the Ottawa-Carleton area—namely, stabling for horses, riding instruction, and bridle areas for recreational purposes.

**Mr. Nixon:** That is what your government did in the community colleges for witchcraft.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** There are 12 riding academies listed in the yellow pages of the Ottawa-Hull telephone directory—all private enterprise, and all of them providing the services these two municipalities want to spend \$1.5 million on. I am not against horses; perish the thought.

**Mr. Nixon:** Some people say you are part of one.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** I am not against riding. I am not against the equestrian centre. I am against the taxpayers' paying for it.

Whenever something has to be looked into in our municipality, it never seems possible to buy a book. I remember when I was Minister of Housing they told me there was modeltown in Finland I should look at. I charged to the ministry—the taxpayers did pay—\$3 for a book in which there was something like 20 opinions and assessments of that new town in Finland. In my municipality, the reeve, the chairman of the planning committee and the chief planner of the township decided to take a trip to Finland. That's the way they do things there.

**Mr. Nixon:** You must really feel they are breathing down your neck.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Not really.

**Mr. Nixon:** You are talking like a person who is in his last session of the Legislature.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** I don't recall the province or the Premier (Mr. Davis) or anybody sending out orders to the municipality to undertake that kind of research.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Reid:** You didn't do that well last time.

**Mr. Nixon:** You took over a safe Tory seat and they are going to knock you off.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Last fall we had a great event in Calgary called the Grey Cup—a wonderful event; national, and most of us watched it on television. It turned out that in conjunction with Grey Cup weekend there was a casino being held in Calgary. It was decided that since our township might sponsor a casino at some time in the future, three councillors and the executive assistant to the reeve would go to Calgary on Grey Cup weekend to examine the casino; which they did. They came back and then they made a call to our ministry and of course they were told that such casinos were illegal in Ontario. They might very well have checked that out before they went.

As the former leader of the Liberal Party well knows, my Liberal opponent in 1975 just happens to be a councillor in the township of Nepean.

**Mr. Nixon:** The reeve is not on your short list either.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** I am not too sure whether he is on my friend's list; maybe his successor will be able to do something about that. But in that campaign it was claimed the new industrial park in Nepean township would return a profit of approximately \$2 million a year to the taxpayers in Nepean. I believed everything my Liberal opponent said and I backed the cabinet decision to allow that industrial park to go ahead when it was being opposed by some of the ratepayers because there had never been a financial statement.

I believe that industrial parks can benefit municipalities. But we were told that this one was not going to cost the taxpayers anything; it would pay for itself in a period of a few months; there was a lineup of buyers ready to buy lots in the industrial park and all we had to do as a government was approve it.

Well we did. The first thing that happened was that they retained a real estate agent to sell the lots because they couldn't find anybody to buy them.

**Mr. Nixon:** The second thing was you opened one in Spencerville in competition to them.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** The most recent thing, of course, is an application for a loan through my colleague, the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett), to assist the industrial park to pay its debts. Since there is very little communication between me and the council, I haven't received a copy of the application but I have received a letter asking me to support the application. I think I am going to have to reply by saying I don't support applications I know nothing about and I would like to see the details. Certainly I would hope that the industrial park proceeds and that it will provide the tax base which my Liberal opponent attributed to it.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** You should help us get the pension increase. I think you sound as if you might.

**Mr. Nixon:** I think it is time you started working on the pension.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, restraint on municipal spending is long overdue. There is no question about it. We have had restraints on the school boards for the past several years; I was a school trustee when they first came in, so it is going back about six or seven years. We have stabilized the mill rates in both municipalities in Carleton over that period of time. I believe in Nepean the public school mill rate now is 0.05 of a mill different than it was in 1969; I consider that to be a remarkable achievement directly resulting from the ceilings on education.

I don't propose that there should be ceilings on municipal spending, simply because standards must vary from municipality to municipality, but certainly the restraint measures that have been taken by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) are long overdue and I have some hope they will be effective.

**Mr. Nixon:** So you admit you have been overspending all these years?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** All of those municipalities have been, sir, and I hope that they will now sit down and decide—

**Mr. Nixon:** But not this government; never this government.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Prior to ceilings, all of the proposals that came before school boards were good; but when ceilings came

in, they decided that some were better than others and some of them had to be deferred. I hope that process now takes place in municipal councils.

Recently, the leader of the Liberal Party was in my riding, and I am not too critical of him for not really knowing where he was when he talked about the Queensway-Carleton Hospital in Ottawa. It is not in Ottawa; it is in Nepean township.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Do you have a tennis court in your riding?

**Mr. Ferrier:** Did he play a game of tennis when he was there?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** I really don't blame him. In his perambulations to Hamilton West via Mount Royal and Burlington, he probably got a little lost. Unlike the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis), he doesn't even scatter crumbs to the natives in eastern Ontario; but he did make this brief appearance in my riding. He came back with a dramatic question for the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller)—probably fed to him by a member of the hospital board who happens to be a member of the council and who happens to have been my Liberal opponent in 1975—

**Mr. Moffatt:** Is he a member of a tennis club?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** He asked the minister to explain to the House why the Queensway-Carleton Hospital was going to be delayed and told how all those people were being upset by this delay and how it was a great worry to the people of the area. "I would like to hear your explanation, Mr. Minister," he said.

Well, as I said, the Queensway-Carleton Hospital is not in Ottawa, but he had been in a number of places that day and he probably got a little lost. The hospital will serve all of Carleton, all of eastern Ontario. It is certainly not a great worry to the people in the area; it is a source of great pride, because that hospital resulted from the efforts of a generation of school children, their parents and the community as a whole. As a matter of fact, it was only last week that the formal order in council designating it as an OHIP hospital was passed and the hospital is ready to go into operation.

I don't know where the leader of the Liberal Party got the idea that the Queensway-Carleton Hospital was causing great worry. Fortunately, the members of the press gallery who thought they might have a



good story took the trouble to call the director of the hospital, and he couldn't understand what the Liberal leader was worried about either. He said there was no worry among the people in the area, the hospital was proceeding on schedule and, when officially open, it will add 200 beds to the stock in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

[4:00]

On that evening, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal leader went to my riding to address the annual meeting of the Carleton Liberal Association. I suppose he went to declare a war and unfortunately nobody came. The press didn't come. But what I did do—and I always do this to ensure that there is some attendance at the Liberal meetings—I sent a couple of people over to watch what was going on. It serves two purposes: It usually enables me to find out what's going on in my riding; and it also doubles the attendance at the meeting, which is very helpful.

I don't know how far the Liberal leader has gone in attempting to obtain a candidate for the next election, but I would like to make a suggestion to him, because a situation exists in my riding which is not to the advantage of the people, at least of Nepean township. Prior to 1975, elections in Carleton were relatively gentlemanly affairs and I was involved with five of them on behalf of my predecessor Erskine Johnston. Mostly it was the Conservative and the Liberal candidates discussing issues, and the NDP candidate tagging along for the experience.

In 1975, things changed—

**Mr. Nixon:** You got a little panicky and became anti-French.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Unfortunately the NDP candidate—who was a very credible candidate and gained a great deal of experience—apparently has decided not to contest the next election. I hope the Leader of the Opposition maybe will prevail on him to do so. He is a fine gentleman; a man I could discuss issues with. Unfortunately, however, the campaign in Carleton did descend into gutter. It was a campaign which I was uncomfortable with and I quite frankly admit I was unable to cope with.

**Mr. Nixon:** You certainly didn't cover yourself with glory in your position with the French situation.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** I didn't cover myself with glory in dealing with the mud-smearing and the mud-slinging.

**Mr. Nixon:** You were the one who was throwing it.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** It was quite a personal campaign based entirely on my performance on behalf of the people of Nepean township, which is one township in the area.

**Mr. Nixon:** The council doesn't think you are doing a good job.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Well, there are some members of the council who don't, Mr. Speaker, and I quite agree.

**Mr. Nixon:** They are elected too, you know. They are elected.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** The chief sufferers in this whole situation are the people of Nepean. I'm okay and I'm sure the reeve of Nepean is okay; as a matter of fact, he's better off than I am financially. But I would think that in order to serve the people of Nepean he might see fit to do what he tried to do by proxy in the last election—that's stand for election and stand up and be counted, instead of sitting at the back of the hall prompting the Liberal candidate on the stands he should take on various issues.

**Mr. Nixon:** What a strange speech this is.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** It's a little bit partisan; and I've been accused from time to time, Mr. Speaker, of being partisan.

**Mr. Nixon:** It is a very strange speech attacking the whole council of Nepean township, a democratically-elected council. It is a very strange thing for a minister of the Crown to do.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order.

**Mr. Nixon:** Surely you have got enough job to do keeping your own house in order. You are making a spectacle of yourself.

**Mr. Handleman:** I'm suggesting that the municipalities have come up to their own priorities. The motion of the Liberal Party says we are forcing them to raise taxes. Nobody's forcing them at all. They're making their own decision; and they are legally elected and they are accountable—

**Mr. Nixon:** You are not abiding by the election commitment; and they are a good council, too.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** —and I want to point out that we are not forcing them and we will not permit municipal councils to say, "The

province forced us to raise taxes." They're making their own decisions.

**Mr. Nixon:** We are saying it.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, I don't want to concentrate entirely on the Liberal Party because there is an official opposition in the Legislature.

**Mr. Nixon:** The Liberals are the ones who are going to beat you.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** In Japan they call it hara-kiri.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has, for the most part, been quite calm, I think, in my dealings with him, but when the rent review legislation was transferred to my ministry he made some cutting remarks about my track record in the interests of the consumer and those were remarks I found a little bit unkind.

I'm aware of the fact that nobody in this Legislature can come up to the level of compassion, the compassionate concern for the consumer, which is exhibited by the members opposite in the official opposition. This great consumerism that they seem to think they have a lock on—I keep having it thrown at me.

The member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) one day as an interjection said, I believe, "If you don't have a remedy, find one. Pass a law, spend money; that's the way to do things around here." That, I think, is the answer of the members in the official opposition: Government can do anything it wants to do and therefore it should. That's the attitude. Therefore I don't find too much criticism there about restraint; except, of course, we are not spending money in the areas in which they would spend it.

**Mr. Lawlor:** Enforcing the present law would be better.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** I find in that party, sir, there is a mistrust of the business community so thick that you can cut it with a knife. While paying lip service to small business—and this is what I find so ironic about the NDP at the present time—

**Mr. Moffatt:** You don't like that.

**Mr. Bain:** We like small business, but it's the multinational corporations we don't like.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** They pay lip service to the virtues of small business. A few weeks ago I made a speech in Markham in which I praised the Better Business Bureau, which is made up almost entirely of small business, and one of the members opposite—

**Mr. Bain:** What is your relationship with Inco?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** —not on the floor of the House, but very quietly, said: "You wouldn't trust those guys to handle consumer affairs." Well yes, I would. I think the small businessman should be encouraged to handle consumer matters, and they are doing a great job wherever they are given the opportunity to do it.

**Mr. Renwick:** Certainly you're not doing very much.

**Mr. Moffatt:** You are not even a spectator at the game.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** I don't accept that they are ripoff artists. They are essentially honest, hard-working people, and they are intent on making a living and a profit and profit is not a dirty word in this society yet, no matter what some people up in Ottawa and members opposite may say. Profit is a legitimate goal of business.

**Mr. Davidson:** We don't begrudge the small businessman a profit.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Some of the members of the House who have not been here very long may not know that we have been dealing in consumerism, and I am not going to dwell at great length on that, but I would like to point out there are a number of consumer initiatives in the speech that we are debating.

**Mr. Lawlor:** You are not a very vigorous department.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** While we have done a number of things and—

**Mr. Ferrier:** Weak-kneed, deluded.

**Mr. Lawlor:** All this and Heaven too.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Since I am being charmed by the member for Lakeshore, I would like to respond and tell him some of the things that we are doing. He should know; he should know. There are others here who may not know, but he does.

Interjections.



**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; the hon. member for Carleton will continue.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** One of the things we have done over the past five years is to try to dismantle the rule of caveat emptor in this province. We are trying to take away from the buyer the necessity of investigating every transaction.

**Mr. Renwick:** Keep trying; you haven't done very well yet.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** We haven't succeeded entirely, no; nor do I think any government will ever succeed entirely in that. We say to the consumer, the best consumer is an informed consumer. If I may borrow from my colleague, the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller), we think you should be your own consumer protection bureau. But we have a role to play and certainly we are prepared to carry it out.

**Mr. Renwick:** You can't spend your whole life protecting yourself.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** We think that in exercising good, sound, common sense by bringing in legislation which enables the consumer to avail himself of government protection we can create some balance in the marketplace.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Some balance.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** We don't want to spend our time threshing about with ideology or trying to find some nasty capitalist under every bed, like some of the members opposite. We have gone out and changed the rules of the marketplace and we have made the changes stick. We haven't had the degree of confrontation that perhaps some of our socialist friends would have relished in this process. It has not been a cabbage-throwing contest. I doubt—and maybe the member for Lakeshore reflects this—that anyone opposite has noticed how things have changed over the past five years under the leadership of our present Premier (Mr. Davis); but they have changed, and they have changed for the better.

What we have done is we have established a network of rights, firmly established by statute. These rights are being extended every day in court decisions, by decisions of the commercial registration appeal tribunal and in the ongoing procedures of letters and replies and investigations and judgements being made in the ministry every day.

I know that if I spend a great deal of time informing the members of our consumer

initiatives over the past five years, some of the effort will be wasted, because some of them may not be long among us. I hope they have taken the opportunity to send out their first constituency newsletter, because the member for Hamilton West (Mr. S. Smith) might very well change his mind again tomorrow and we will be back on the hustings.

**Mr. Nixon:** Whatever we do it will be the end of you. You won't be back, Sidney.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** I say it will be good to have known the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Interjection.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Lorne, you didn't hear him attack his council. That's the last thing Lorne would ever do. He is here in perpetuity; he will never leave here.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** I am so happy that I know no matter what happens to me personally I will always have a friend at court; and I mean at court, not in the opposition benches.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** What do you mean in court? He is the head man.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please, the hon. member will continue.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, some of the rights that we—

**Mr. Nixon:** You don't need a friend in court, do you?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** —provided to Ontario citizens are the right to sound information about the product or service he is buying; the right to performance of the standards promised by the salesman; the right to disclosure of all of the pertinent information of the buyer and the seller; the right to cancel a contract which has been signed under duress; the right to speedy redress under our Consumer Protection Act.

Now they have succeeded by relying upon three basic methods or procedures. First, we set out rules of practice for more than a dozen major industries, which is the subject of a number of Acts. Now we're going on to more general types of legislation, such as is reflected in the Business Practices Act. In addition to dealing with specific industries, we've registered the practitioners of these industries. And third, we've established procedures to deal with complaints and bring about their

effective resolution. Nearly everyone; the consumer, the honest businessman and everyone else has benefitted from this work. The only people who have suffered have been the unethical or the incompetent.

The Business Practices Act which was made law in May of last year makes hundreds of unethical sales practices illegal for the first time. We keep hearing of the consumer legislation of British Columbia as being the most progressive and the most effective and the toughest in the world.

**Mr. Lawlor:** Somebody is watching you.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** They started with nothing; they copied our Act and now with a great many press releases, the former minister, Phyllis Young, has made the world aware of the fact that British Columbia has a consumer services department. I met with the new minister and he tells me he is not going to stop that practice at all. In other words, they are going to blow the horn of their effective consumer legislation. It is our Act; it is the Business Practices Act translated into the British Columbia milieu. It was taken out there by their present deputy minister who was a consultant to my predecessor, John Clement, in the drafting of the act.

We praise the British Columbia legislation, we think it is great; but we want you to know, Mr. Speaker, and we want the people of Ontario to know, that we had it first.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Well you might as well use it.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** We use it and we use it effectively. We are using it all the time and we will use it increasingly.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Talk to the people of Bowmanville.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** I would like members to consider the Consumer Reporting Act which was brought into effect in 1974 by my predecessor, John Clement. It provides for the registration of consumer reporting agencies. This is the Act that protects the individual from false information and provides for disclosure of his own file to any consumer in Ontario.

**Mr. Lawlor:** Did you ever read that debate?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Yes. We took this up in estimates and I am satisfied that Act is working. We've had very few complaints about it.

**Mr. Lawlor:** You don't protect privacy.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** The only places in which we've had any complaints are in border areas where some Canadian merchants are using collection agencies outside the boundaries of Ontario. It has now been drawn to the attention of those merchants and I think those situations will be corrected. It has been suggested, of course, that we have an amendment to the Consumer Protection Act which would provide for a 48-hour cooling-off period on Liberal non-confidence notices.

While that might prevent the Liberals from causing themselves further embarrassment, and certainly save the politicians from worrying about unnecessary elections, it would lessen the public cynicism about the whole political process. However, I don't think it would be constitutionally sound for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations to take that action.

These are the legislative initiatives we've been taking in the past five years. The leadership of the Premier and my predecessor, John Clement, has been the major factor in our progress in consumer relations.

There are a number of initiatives in the Speech from the Throne which we're debating which I think we should be dealing with, particularly the home warranty plan which I expect I'll be introducing in the Legislature within a matter of a few days. We have to consult with a number of people as to the direction we're going to go or the form in which the warranty will be administered. But it is my understanding that we have reached agreement with most of the members of the industry, with the lenders and with the consumers. We will be talking to the municipalities very shortly—as soon as they have had an opportunity to study the Act—then, hopefully, we will proceed with the debate after everybody has had an opportunity to assess the proposal. I expect it will be discussed in committee of the whole House.

**Mr. Lawlor:** How about consumer warranties?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** You took the words right out of my mouth.

I would like to talk just for a moment about consumer product warranties which are based on the Law Reform Commission report. It has been a concern of mine ever since I came into the portfolio—as a consumer, not as the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. It is very difficult to remain objective in your judgement of product warranties when, as a consumer, from time to time you run into problems. I am



not going to mention my problems because I think it would be unfair to those who have caused them.

**Mr. Reid:** Your problem is obvious.  
[4:15]

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** There is no question at all that a consumer product warranty Act is necessary. What we do require is a minimum basic warranty free of all disclaimers. I think we can achieve that in the Act that I hope I will be able to introduce.

I want to make it quite clear that this Act has been discussed with other provinces. Hopefully, some of the provinces to the west of us will be introducing somewhat similar legislation, although not identical, and we'll be able to take a look at what the provinces are thinking.

**Mr. Lawlor:** Yes, you are always the pioneer.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** We're always first.

**Mr. Lawlor:** Always going to New York, California, and wherever else.

**Mr. Reid:** First to borrow.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** We've looked at theirs and we find that they're not suitable for us. But we're certainly going to provide for a straightforward redress procedure. I think that's the most important thing in a consumer product warranty Act—that the consumer has immediate, straightforward, simple redress procedures available to him.

Despite the fact that we're always in the lead, we know that there has to be national uniformity of standards—

**Mr. Lawlor:** Liechtenstein is ahead of you.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** —in any consumer product warranty Act. Our manufacturers, and those who import, of course, do not do so for a provincial jurisdiction; they do so on a national basis. The former Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and, possibly, the future Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs again, did ask that the provinces show on the table the direction in which they're heading so that the national government could look at what the provinces feel is right and act upon it.

One of the problems in dealing with consumer affairs, particularly with an NDP opposition, is that they feel miracles can be accomplished. Sometimes they're right.

**Mr. Young:** We have faith in you.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** In British Columbia they took a perfectly good general insurance industry, turned it into a government monopoly and then ran it into the ground. They lost millions of dollars in the process. They had a strike of 13 weeks among their very faithful employees.

**Mr. Moffatt:** You've been reading the wrong press again.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** If a government can do that, then they can work miracles—there's no question of that. They did a tremendous job on the insurance industry.

Just try to imagine what a socialist government would do with a consumer products warranty programme. Maybe the member for Lakeshore would say I'm exaggerating.

**Mr. McClellan:** You asked Saskatchewan to consult with you.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** It would probably start off in the preamble with a declaration saying: "All products and goods should last forever." That's the first thing. That's an absolute must in an NDP product warranty Act.

**Mr. Moffatt:** That's absolutely ridiculous.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Then they would say: "Since the repair shops are charging those exorbitant amounts for repairs of goods, we will set the fee and we'll charge \$2 to repair a colour television set. But would you mind waiting three months because the repair man is on strike at the present time?" Somebody once said, and I'm going to steal these words: "If the Sahara became socialist, there would soon be a shortage of sand."

**Mr. Moffatt:** You like that one.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** It's not funny? Okay.

Our approach would be a reasonable one, we hope. We will make use of the flexibility of the Business Practices Act, which gives the government power to eliminate deceptive practices. We will also provide ready access to the courts for both my ministry and consumers, making it possible to act against the retailer, the manufacturer or both.

Government adjudication is something else we've been asked to bring into legislation. It's far too slow; far too cumbersome; far too expensive to contemplate. We simply do not believe that government should interfere in

an adversary system. We're providing consumers with rights which we believe to be unparalleled anywhere in Canada, but it does not follow that the only responsibility of the consumer is to complain. He has some responsibility to act on his own.

Some people will have to go to court to enforce their rights, and what's wrong with that? The courts were established to provide justice for the common man and to protect him from the arbitrary action, both of his fellow citizens and of the government. There is no effective substitute for the rule of law. This is a tradition which has been very valuable to this country in the last 100 years.

The government does have responsibility to help consumers and it takes that responsibility seriously. We have a responsibility to investigate complaints. We have a responsibility to take legal action against offending businessmen. The problem always is, in any type of litigation you have to have proof. It's all too easy to make allegations without being able to prove them. Now, there can't be a separate system of justice for every social ill; and there certainly can't be a bureaucrat for every consumer. I believe it is incumbent on each of us to be our own consumer protection bureau, as I have already said, and government must create the balance in the marketplace to make this effective.

I want to simply say again that we on this side of the House believe that the consumer does deserve protection against the abuses of the marketplace, that the way to achieve that protection best is by creating a balance, by giving the consumer easy and effective redress procedures without incurring tremendous expenses. One of the things I found in the examination of my estimates last year was that we were being criticized for not being more expensive in many ways, more expensive in our information services because there was some criticism that we weren't telling people what we were doing. There was some criticism we didn't have enough people out in the field to assist consumers. We feel that we have provided sound leadership, exercising sound fiscal practices; and we are now looking for comparable efforts from the public we serve.

One of the great problems we face as a party dedicated to the private enterprise system is the fact that there are times when the business community lets us down. It is just as clear to us as it is to members opposite that some of the attitudes of business must change. And I have kept saying this to them ever since I became minister. Those changes must take place if the consumer's reasonable expectations are to be met.

But it is a mistake to think that businessmen are intrinsically evil—even the large corporations, which is said with an invisible sneer. No, private enterprise does not inevitably work against the wishes of the public. It is also a mistake to ignore the very real transitions that are taking place in business thinking and methodology.

I meet businessmen all the time, and sometimes they do get a little over-fascinated by their own schemes and ambitions, the health of their industry and the sales of their products. Sometimes we charge them with lack of social conscience and it comes as a surprise to them. They really don't understand the feeling out there in the marketplace and in government. But their position, sir, is not one of intent. It is not one of evil conspiracy to defraud and to rip off. This is, I think, the consequence of obsession in the business community with their own activities. We are asking them to broaden their horizons, to look at the public interest; and I expect a positive response from the business community to that request.

They have never made a decision to be bad corporate citizens, despite the feelings of some people in this Legislature. The problem is they sometimes can't see themselves as others do from the outside.

But many of the adversaries of business certainly are no better, and I meet many of them too. Many of them have never had a serious discussion with a businessman. They know nothing of his work or his problems. Their image of big business is still pretty close to the top hat, the big cigar and the cane of capitalism, which was made famous in those early days of the revolution over on the other side.

The pressures and difficulties of producing and marketing a successful product really never occur to them. They don't think of the kinds of problems that arise. It's all fixed in the boardroom, they say. The idea that business responsibilities sometimes require sacrifices too is quickly forgotten. It's stereotyped thinking—

**Mr. Renwick:** Why don't you leave this apologia for your colleague the Minister of Industry and Tourism and try to deal with the consumers in the province?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** We have to deal with the business community if we are going to deal with consumer problems and we are trying to deal with both.

It is stereotyped thinking by both businessmen and consumer advocates that has in the end forced the government to take greater



and greater responsibilities in the marketplace. It is this same kind of thinking that is helping to drive up government expenditures. We are trying to keep them down; we hope that we will succeed.

We don't want to be the indispensable policemen. It is simply unnecessary and we think it can be made completely redundant by a change in attitudes. I hope in the next few months to be encouraging local businessmen to take more responsibility for consumer complaints. I feel that the Better Business Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce and Boards of Trade can take these responsibilities and handle them very responsibly.

I am going to be speaking to businessmen about what we expect from them to ensure that my ministry does not grow in size; we do not want to build an empire. We have to widen the circle of participation in consumer protection if we are to make it as effective as we would like to see it and also to keep it inexpensive. That will be a major objective in my ministry in the months ahead.  
[4:30]

That doesn't have the cardboard-cutout simplicity that we might expect from the members of the official opposition, and of course I'll never make enough changes in policy to qualify as a member of the third party in the House. But in the end, we expect that co-operation—voluntary, as much as we can make it—will bring the consumer his just expectations.

The consumer initiatives in Her Honour's address warrant the full support of all members of this Legislature. It will be disappointing to me if, on the night of April 5, I see the opposition parties vote against them. I hope they won't. Probably they will on at least one vote, and probably they will split on the other. I'm looking forward to that vote on April 5 very much.

**Mr. Renwick:** Now we will hear some sense.

**Mr. Breaugh:** I wondered what they did with the stuff after it went through the shredder. Now I know. It becomes the minister's speech.

The other comment I wanted to make before we get settled on the Throne Speech is that maybe the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations could do a little investigating about how badly we got ripped off on the sound system in here. Just before he goes, he could make a small note of that.

I wanted to make some reference to one of the things we heard a lot about last fall

and we keep hearing a good deal about—it's mentioned often in the Throne Speech—and that is the field of justice. It's now called justice; if I remember rightly, last fall it was called law and order. We were going to embark on a great law and order campaign in Ontario. I think we all looked forward at least to the experience of what might happen there. We had a new Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), and at least if we watched the TV every night we saw there was a lot of legislation being proposed out in the hall. When the cameras were going and the lights were on there were all kinds of ideas being bandied about.

The problem was, there wasn't very much going on in here. There was a lot of talk outside the House, a lot of comments, a lot of opinions and a lot of different ideas tried, but not very much legislation put before the House. The problem that he's got, I suppose, is that the cameras have moved inside the House and something is going to have to happen, because the whole TV studio mill is now in here.

One of the things that has resulted from all this—and I think it is a very significant point in Canadian history—is that we've now managed to charge one of the members of the Detroit Red Wings with assault. So far that's the high point in the new law and order campaign. One professional hockey player did it—in front of a lot of people, which I suppose, is what makes the difference—and he got charged.

**Mr. Samis:** Wait until the next football season starts.

**Mr. Breaugh:** That's true. In the football season it's going to be a problem because there are going to be a lot of assault cases laid there—

**Mr. Samis:** A lot of meanies among those Roughriders.

**Mr. Breaugh:** —except when the Argonauts are playing, but that's normal for our guys.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** You couldn't charge them with assault.

**Mr. Samis:** It's impossible.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** It's impossible.

**Mr. Breaugh:** Not with the Argonauts playing, you're right.

**An hon. member:** Maybe the baseball team.

**Mr. Breaugh:** Maybe the ball team, but not the Argos.

The other thing we have seen so far is the great escapade in investigation into television violence. Frankly, I like my violence on television; I'd rather have it there than on the streets. I really dislike people who take potshots at Kojak; anybody who sucks lollipops has got to be okay by me.

Those are really the two notable changes that we've had toward a law and order society in Ontario. One is charging a hockey player and the other is picking on Kojak. I don't understand that. I don't think that's really a significant move, or at least the kind of thing that we anticipated.

The other place where justice is mentioned in the Throne Speech now is that there's a lot of backlog in the court system, and what are you going to do about that? Of course, there are a lot of problems that are associated with that, some of which are jurisdictional and some constitutional. It's not hard any more to identify the accused; he is usually the guy who is out on bail. If one talks to police officers, one of their biggest problems is to try to keep up with the arrest system—to get the arrests written out before the guys are out on bail again. That's a very significant problem, particularly when it gets to the courts and one is talking about sentencing.

The backlog in the courts being such, it is very difficult now for police officers to really remember who actually committed the crime. If it weren't for his notes and the fact that the accused generally sits up near the front of the court, the policeman very often has a difficult time identifying who actually is the criminal in the case, or the alleged criminal. In fact, a lot of what's going on is as a result of what was once called, I suppose, a correctional system; it became sort of a holding tank, where you dumped them. And in a lot of cases, they became training schools for crime. That's where they got their finishing touches on how to break safes and how to conduct various forms of criminal activities. There seems to be a lot of that kind of lack of balance. There doesn't seem to be much common sense any more; I must say there is not very much coming from the government side of the House in particular.

[4:30]

One of the things I'm supposed to take a look at in this House is the work of the Solicitor General's (Mr. MacBeth) ministry. In recent weeks we've had some discussions about the kind of ammunition that police officers use and the kind of procedures they use when there's a police chase on. These are rather small things, I suppose, unless you happen to be on the receiving end of the

ammunition or you happen to be the one who's being chased at that particular moment.

There are some bigger problems, ones which really aren't very dramatic. The amount of police training that goes on in Ontario, although it's much better than it once was, is still not really significant. The kind of budget cuts that are going on in my area really mean that small police stations are being closed. The kinds of programmes that are being cut are really odd, because they're really the first occasions when the police departments were getting out into the community. They had community relations programmes in Toronto and a number of areas for the first time in many years; they were an attempt by the police force to kind of associate with their community, because they sensed, as many people have, that police forces by and large have lost touch with their community.

There aren't very many places in Ontario where everybody knows the cop on the beat any more. It's a major problem. So they set out to rectify that by setting up community relations clinics, by training officers in special ways and by running things which sometimes accomplished much more than they set out to accomplish.

What I suppose might be considered in some respects as a frivolous thing, a safety programme, not only taught kids school safety but brought police officers back into human contact with kids. In some of the schools where I taught, that was the first non-threatening situation that those kids had ever seen in which a police officer participated. He wasn't trying to bust them for ripping off the local five-and-dime store. He was trying to be nice to them and he was trying to explain things to them.

Although the major thrust of that programme really was kind of traffic safety or all kinds of safety for kids in school, a major part of what occurred there was that the police officer established a relationship with the kids in that area. He got to know them on a first-name basis and the kids got to know him, and many of them they lost their fear of a police officer through that. Some of them regained it shortly thereafter, but at least temporarily they had some security in that situation.

In a lot of places it means that the little local cop shop, the local police station, isn't there any more. There's now a big one, 20 miles away. The people don't know who's policing that area and they don't know where to go if they want to talk to somebody. In my home town, there always was a little police station and three or four police officers



who worked the town and everybody knew each one of them; and if they weren't your friends, at least they weren't your enemies. That's hardly true anywhere in Ontario any more.

There used to be a great tradition, if you like, about police officers doing foot patrols. The cop on the beat was a great guy; you didn't do bad things when he was around, and if you did, and it wasn't of a serious nature, it was a discussable item. He had considerable respect in his community. In a lot of major urban centres in Ontario now, there really aren't very many foot patrols; there aren't very many police officers walking up and down the streets talking to people. There are two in a cruiser and that's much different than one officer with whom you can stand and have a little chat with on the corner. There are still some, but at a time when they're really putting on budget restraints, that's one of the first things to go.

I think one of the biggest problems we have is that there are much larger police organizations in Ontario now. Almost everywhere there's that bureaucracy at work; there's kind of a dehumanized process involved. One of the things that it does, oddly enough, is that it seems to put the police officer under a good deal of pressure. He can no longer be relaxed in his job. There are things happening in Ontario that never used to happen here. There are bureaucracies to answer to; there are procedures to be followed; there are a great many complicated things which make it difficult for an officer to try to even survive as an ordinary guy trying to do his job.

One very simple thing is that there's an increased population in Ontario; and with that increased population, the percentage, if you like, of people who actually commit a crime also increases. In simple numbers, there's more there. There is, right now, a withdrawal of a great many social services in Ontario. A lot of the things that used to stop crime before it started, a lot of the families who needed counselling, a lot of the kids who needed some help are feeling that pinch from that withdrawal of social service. Those people who a little while ago might have had a chance to go and talk to somebody about problems they might have in their own home or in their own little community are finding now, and are going to find, that that's becoming increasingly difficult because those people aren't there anymore; because their caseload is much higher than it was, say a year ago and because

there is just not quite as much for them to rely on in any sense.

There are those who, I guess, make the argument that although the welfare system could be abused in a lot of cases it's that welfare system that keeps them out of crime. If you want to be very crass about it, if you don't have to steal for money, if you can get it from another source, the chances of your stealing for the money are somewhat less. I think if you looked at the statistics from American cities where welfare systems at one time at least were much worse than the ones we had here, you would find some considerable support for that.

The worst thing, though, that I think I see in modern police work is probably the unreal expectations that are put on the officers. They are expected to do things and to be correct all the time, and to get very little support for doing so. They have to make decisions in split-second situations with very little guidance in many cases and very little support in a great many other cases. Then their decision is scrutinized over the next six, or eight months, or sometimes a year or two years. It is scrutinized by the press and by all the politicians; nobody wants to be associated with that guy who in 30 seconds had to decide what to do in a given situation.

We saw the Solicitor General say that's part of being a police officer. Wouldn't it be nice if there was some support for that officer who had to make that kind of decision? Wouldn't it be nice if there was a little better training for that police officer? Wouldn't it be a much better idea to provide him with a controlled situation where he didn't so often have to make that kind of decision?

We can make lousy decisions and come back tomorrow and change our mind, that has been done before; but a police officer maybe can't. He may be firing a weapon and he can't pull that bullet back. He is, I think, in an increasingly complicated and uncomfortable situation. One of the things I have some reservations about in Ontario is that there is certainly a lot of training going on that not many people are aware of. I don't think very many people in the general population are aware that our police have riot training. They have, and they drill regularly. Not very many people are aware that in Ontario it is legal for the chief of police or the commissioner of police actually to declare any kind of weapon or any kind of ammunition to be legal for his officers to use.



I don't know how you would put this in a gentlemanly way, but there is kind of a concentrated training schedule going on here. People are being trained in certain skills that I think emulate what is going on in American cities and at some point in time they are going to want to use those skills. Whether they have sufficient discretion to use them wisely or not is a good question, but we are spending a lot of money in aiming our police forces at that kind of thing.

In Ontario we have this impression that we will never become like American society with that kind of police ethic, if you like, working around in our urban area; we don't have SWAT teams in Ontario, we think. But we do have one in Toronto. We think we won't have special weapons floating around all over the place; but we have them, and every once in a while you can watch the news and see that happen. You can see that American-style cruiser roll up; you can see the battle wagon, fully charged on the inside, with specially trained police officers aboard.

What do those gentlemen do? They practise. I had a report the other day that the special weapons squad in Toronto rolled up to the U of T campus and spent an hour or so chasing a dog around because they needed the practice. That's a lot of money and that's a lot of skilled help chasing a dog around a university campus.

We have in Ontario a kind of British tradition, if you like, of police training and police officers. We do allow them to carry weapons here and they don't do that in England all the time, but we have their aspect of it as opposed to the American approach or tradition of an officer being somewhat a little more aggressive in the carrying out of his duties.

I see some problems there and frankly I don't see very much that is going to help us. There certainly isn't very much in the Throne Speech that would help our system of justice. Some of the frustration signs that I see are much more militant police associations. I can never remember seeing a police association in Ontario taking out a full-page ad on anything, and that's currently what's going on.

I think too it is only fair to say that the policemen themselves have a rather poor image these days. It is a little difficult to defend some of their actions, but it is also unfair to take the two or three who do things that are not perhaps quite according to Hoyle and put them up as being what every police officer really is. On the other side of the coin there is considerable lack of

respect for police officers in Ontario, and we can see that on virtually any street. We can see it in my riding. We can see it in Toronto. We can see it anywhere. I don't really remember when I was a kid that I had at least that attitude. I don't ever remember loving the police force or anything like that, but I don't ever remember seeing those open signs of disrespect. It's here and frankly I don't see anybody doing very much about it.

One of the things that happened just over this weekend was the incident in Toronto's Chinese community and I find that unreal, even the allegation the police officers went into a place where there was supposed gambling going on. I didn't see anything about gambling charges being laid. I saw something about somebody burning money on a table. That's surely a sign of frustration.

**Mr. Lawlor:** That's a capital crime in our society. Imagine; burning money!

**Mr. Breaugh:** I rarely do that myself.

**An hon. member:** It is better to go to the paper shredder.

**Mr. Breaugh:** I think part of the problem, though, is that being a police officer in Ontario has become a thankless job. There is very little support for them. There is a lot of pressure on them. There is the higher crime rate. There is perhaps the lack of public support. There is a lot of time spent on useless jobs; serving bench warrants, driving around, waiting for judges; and the paper work that's there, as there is in every bureaucracy.

There are perhaps several indications that organized crime is here, although we very often spend a lot of time, especially in this House, denying that there is organized crime; but it's difficult to figure out how they can one day break up a supposed \$70 million drug ring in one city and then turn around and say there really isn't any organized crime in Ontario. It takes considerable organization to get that kind of thing together.

There used to be an OPP investigation branch that did criminal investigations on organized crime. I am told it's barely in existence any more. There seems to have been some drop or change in priorities. I remember at one time all the discussions about organized crime were hot and heavy in Ontario. It seems to run in cycles. It doesn't seem to get discussed any more and therefore perhaps the government is letting down on that a bit. Perhaps public pressure is the only thing that wakes them up. Maybe it is just that people have seen "The Valachi



Papers" and are sick and tired of hearing about organized crime or whatever it might be.

At any rate, I don't see very much in this Throne Speech and I haven't seen very much on the part of this government that really is, even by anybody's stretch of the imagination, leadership. I haven't even seen them take much of a stand in terms of responsibility. I haven't seen anything that would guide or support or help a police officer doing his job, and I haven't seen very much that dealt with the role of a police officer. From what I remember when I was growing up, he did a much different job from the one I see is being done now; much different. I think there really needs to be some stabilization of that whole effort and some alteration of the expectations that we have of those officers. I think, quite frankly, that's an area of justice that can be changed and ought to be changed, and I really don't support the idea that the way to alter your system of justice is go out and appoint 40 or 50 more judges. I think there are some fundamental problems there that no one has even looked at yet, at least no one is willing to make very much of a to-do about or to make a public statement about.

I want to say a couple of words too about something else that seems to have been forgotten since last September. Last September there was a lot of talk about occupational health. There seems to be that cycle in Ontario, and we seem to be hung with it. I see it mentioned in the Throne Speech. It is really given a lot of time and effort.

It says in the Throne Speech that the occupational health problem is a top priority item. I don't know what that means. I seem to remember everybody always saying that it's a top priority item, but I don't see anything to correct the situation at all. I don't even hear any minister of the Crown saying anything about it, let alone introducing legislation in that field. I remember some promises that were made about task forces here and an occupational health commission, terms of reference undefined. I am waiting to see that happening.

I really wonder, aside from the television ads and the odd occupational health meeting that's held around Ontario, if the government cares at all in that field. Perhaps we should redefine that word, they probably do care but are they willing to do anything about it? That's what I don't see.

For one thing, every time an issue is raised you are immediately into a jungle that involves three ministries—Health, Environment

and Labour. No one seems to be able to bring those three together. You ask a question one day of the Minister of Labour and you get one answer; the next day you can get something from Health; the next day you can get something from Environment. They never seem to operate together.

[4:45]

**Mr. Renwick:** And, meanwhile, Leo Bernier carries on without them.

**Mr. Breaugh:** True, true. One of the problems that I see is how do you sort out three bureaucracies? God knows, you have a tough enough time trying to make one work, but three of them together seems really to boggle the mind.

The fact simply seems to be that there really isn't any uniform policy in Ontario about this. There seems to be a great deal of difficulty enforcing what laws are there. It seems to be very difficult to get the one ministry to do any monitoring on a regular basis; and then more difficult than that, to get them to release the results. They don't want to tell you what happened. It's more difficult, perhaps, even than that to get somebody to set some standards and explain those to people.

The real killer seems to be the enforcement of the present laws in Ontario. I really don't know of very many occasions when those laws have been enforced except by mutual agreement between the company and the government. They seem to be most reluctant to do that.

What happens in fact is that we seem to just kind of lurch from one disaster to another—a big scandal someplace and a health scare there and a lot of press that surrounds that. The government is quite prepared then to do something in that situation. But if you're around six or eight months later the same thing is going on. The promises are forgotten.

Some of the people in my riding work in a plant in Scarborough, Johns-Manville. If you recall, in the last election campaign there was a lot of discussion about that particular plant. Those problems still aren't solved. Although there were a few investigations, although some results were tabled, the basic problem in the plant is still there.

How long does it really take? How many have to die—and that is not a word to throw around—but how many people do have to die before the present laws are really enforced, before they're carried out?

All of these things seem to come about too, through the effort of people working in these plants. I would have thought that one of the ministers would be doing this job; but in fact what I find is that all of this stuff is uncovered by workers, individuals, or by their unions; or worse yet, by some politician or by some newsman who doesn't even work in that place. But who gets paid and who's responsible for enforcing those laws? Sometimes that's a little difficult to get out.

What seems to happen is that agreements are made that companies will, over a long period of time, clean up their act. In the interim the government will be satisfied to kind of monitor the situation, look after any real disasters that people find out about and others are okay, others are exempt.

Probably the main cause, really, is that the cost of a safe workplace is pretty expensive. Cleaning up factories, especially ones that are old, can be an expensive piece of business. But it's expensive in more than one way. That cost can be borne by the taxpayer. You can pay for it out of your health care system, you can pay for it through compensation, you can pay for it in terms of damage to the environment around those plants—and they do pay that price. We're paying it now.

I suppose, in theory anyway, it could be paid for by that industry itself; the industry that's making the profit the minister referred to as being okay. I don't have anything that much against an industry making a dollar, but I do think it's high time in Ontario that this thing came of age—that the legislation was changed substantially so that the prime cost of providing a safe workplace is put on those people who make the profit.

That seems to me to be a reasonable attitude. But in Ontario today they really don't do it unless they have to, and, quite frankly, that's probably because there isn't any profit in occupational health for most companies. The profit, if there is one, is only to the workers and to the people who live and work in that community; and these are things you can't see on a little balance sheet.

There is, I guess, a kind of corporate tradition in Ontario that there really isn't any problem with the workplace until someone discovers it. There's no need to go in and do that job, to monitor, to require a safe workplace; and really, in the end you only do that if you have to.

One of the things I hear all the time from the other side of the House is that this side,

the opposition, doesn't have a monopoly on social conscience. That's true; we don't. Yet the government must have more than just a conscience. It needs to carry out its responsibilities; and this government seems quite prepared, all the time, to stop just short of that.

I am sure they do think about those situations that are unsafe, they are quite prepared to talk about it; they do sponsor television commercials and they do sponsor the odd seminar, but they stop just short of actually doing anything about it. They stop just short of enforcing existing legislation; and that's a crime and that really hasn't been addressed in any significant way in this Throne Speech or in anything this government has done since last Sept. 18.

I want to cover another point, and that is the federal wage control programme, because that economy that is being discussed in Ottawa, and hasn't been discussed at all, at least not in a formal way, in this House, has some pretty serious ramifications for Ontario. I wonder—and this small question has been raised during the question period from time to time—how legal is it for the Province of Ontario to throw itself into that kind of a major economic programme, without even debating it formally in the House at all, not once, simply by signing it. How constitutional is that?

And setting aside those two points, which the government could always send off to a good judge for eight or nine years, how democratic is it? Maybe even more pertinent, is it a self-defeating process to do it in that way? There is no option covering provincial employees; and I suppose that's probably a politically popular thing because not many people are all that happy with our teachers and our civil servants, but I wonder how fair that is. I would like to think that a government that purports to have a social conscience all the time, ought to at least once in a while consider fairness as being something that's worthwhile sticking your neck out for.

Frankly, it strikes me that that's a rather convenient copout that's been used. To sign an agreement outside the House and not bring it before the House in any way, shape or form gives them the added advantage of two things. They won't have to listen to all this extraneous debate; secondly, there is no possibility that the government will be defeated on that particular motion, particularly if the motion can't even get before the House. There is a fringe benefit, if the whole thing goes screwy one can always blame



Ottawa, and that's a favourite sport that everyone uses.

In this minority government situation there has been an increasing tendency for the government to operate outside of the House. If you recall, the major cuts in health care services were announced outside of the House; the signing of this Anti-Inflation Board agreement was announced outside of the House. In fact, a great deal of the day-to-day operation of the government has been done outside of the House with no debate, with no vote. That's convenience, if you like; I am not so terribly sure that that's brilliant though.

In Ontario we have a heavily industrialized economy in the steel industry and the auto industry. Those two major industries are going to be drastically affected by that programme, and that is going to happen this year. Those contracts are up for negotiation. In some of the other industries, in pulp and paper, that's already happened. I just wonder, in a matter of time how many people are going to be affected and what the time frame will be.

In my own riding, just before Christmas, we did some surveys to find out what people thought about that anti-inflation programme. The rough consensus was, very simply, well they didn't understand it, but somebody ought to do something and apparently Trudeau had done something, so let's see whether it works or not.

But in my community they are now beginning to understand it. They are now beginning to understand what that means to their wages, what that means to their business; and they don't like it any more. If members happened to watch the news last Monday they might have seen 20,000 or 30,000 people on Parliament Hill protesting, and that's part of our democratic process. It's unfortunate the members of this House haven't even had a chance to debate that particular agreement. That hasn't been brought here.

If one wanted to I suppose one could say there are political motives for doing things in that way, that at some point in time all of us have to get charged up and loaded, and at some point in time there will be a major confrontation in the Province of Ontario, probably this summer or this fall, and that that would be a good time for that government to call an election on that particular issue. In a pinch they really can't be accused of unfairness, because after all they didn't design the programme, Ottawa did; and then in a real bind they could probably say: "At least we had the courage to do something," whatever it might have been.

One of the things I think it is going to do, though, is destroy the economy of Ontario, particularly the industrial economy; and I think it's going to bring about industrial strife like we have never seen it. I really am afraid that in this instance they opted for a move which perhaps was politically wise, as perhaps it wouldn't have been smart to bring that agreement before the House, but I think it was most unfair and in the long run will turn out to be unwise because people these days like to know what actually happened.

I want to say a couple of words about the restraint that ain't. As a result of the restraint system that has been announced in Ontario, particularly in a number of areas like day care, it is really questionable whether in the end anybody will ever save any money. I don't know that they have. I certainly haven't seen any figures to support the idea that that restraint programme really will save anybody any money in the long run. I know it is going to put some hardships on people. I know that in the municipalities decisions are being made now that are really rather sad.

There are some tax bills that are going to be out in May and June of this year that are going to impose real hardships on people; we know that. There are projects that ought to be carried out that won't be. There are services that have been rendered in the past, that are necessary to the life of a community, that are going to be cut. It's fine for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) to stand up and say that people shouldn't take junkets. That wouldn't be a bad idea if he made that a ministerial order for his own ministry or if the government decided that none of our government people from Queen's Park will take junkets, because they seem to do their fair share of that particular exercise as well.

One of the things that in particular is a real problem is this thing called day care, because a lot of people don't use it and a lot of people have a ethic that really says they should not do that, that one of the members of the family should stay home and look after the kids and they don't want to use that kind of facility. But for a great many other people such facilities are a really necessary part of their lives and it's something that has given them a mechanism, if you like, to break out of some rather severe social problems.

Again, the cuts were made in such a way that really what we're talking about is the quality of care, and that always defuses the argument. The dramatic thing, as the government well knows, is to shut down the thing entirely. When you want to convince people



that you're serious and that you're brutal folks and you're going to take dead aim at something, you shut down something somewhere. They've done that in a number of spots in Ontario and have done a little backtracking. But in the field of day care, they really have not done that. What they've said is that they're going to alter the quality of care; and then it becomes a somewhat more nebulous argument.

Also they're going to increase fees. For a lot of us a couple of bucks a day doesn't seem like too much, except that if you're a one-parent family and you have a couple of kids, that's another \$20 or \$30 a week to you. There are a lot of those people on border-line jobs for whom that's a dead end. That extra \$20 or \$30 a week is the killer. That's the one that puts them back on the welfare role.

There are a number of people, and I've heard it said in my own riding, who really say that you ought to go to private day care systems and that the government ought to get out of that. Private day care seems to be working well.

Again, it probably works reasonably well. It's one of those areas, though, where I have some qualms about whether people ought to be making a profit on that particular kind of care. In that and in care for the aged, I have my doubts that anybody ought to be in there with a profit motive. I don't doubt that if you want to give luxury day care or luxury care to senior citizens and charge a big buck, if people can afford to pay, that's okay. But in terms of basic care, where quality is necessary for the poor as well as for the rich, I see the obligation of the government quite clearly to get in there. This government, up until this year, has been quite happy to enter into that field and has done so on numerous occasions all over Ontario. In fact the very minister who speaks rather disparagingly from time to time on day care and working mothers and things like that has been quite elated on other occasions to cut the magic ribbon at the opening of a day care centre. Government has taken great pride in many of their press releases to show at least what they have done—not what they should have done, but at least what measures they have taken so far.

The real problem with all of this cut in the daycare field is not really what went on but who is affected, because for those who can afford it I suppose daycare at any price is no problem. Raise the price and they'll come up with it somehow. Shortage of spaces really affects those people who need to get to work, in some sense; and many of them

—at least in my experience—have been fighting for a number of years to get back on the right track. They have come off welfare of some form, or mother's allowance of some kind, and have finally managed to get themselves a job again. That's no easy task these days; particularly for many of those people, some of whom are not that well educated and most of whom are in service industry jobs—waitresses and what not, who don't make a lot of money. According to the Minister of Industry and Tourism, they really don't deserve the minimum wage in Ontario because they probably will pick up a tip or two here and there. That's the kind of person who is hit, and that I find most unfair. [5:00]

There are some problems in understanding the minister in this case because he has a tendency to say one thing and mean another, but he did say he was quite prepared to subsidize. But you see, there is that problem in there, that anyone who is living on welfare allowance in Ontario knows that is not exactly a luxury existence, it's a pretty confining one, so there isn't really much money to play around with.

There's kind of a base that you get at. One of the things that bothers me about it all is that it hurts those people the most, and they seem to be the ones the government has decided to go after. I don't know why; maybe they're just unpopular people. But those borderline recipients who have managed to get themselves over that and back into the mainstream of life again, who feel satisfied and productive with their lives once more, are the ones who are going to be tossed back.

It's interesting to follow the press releases on the opening up of new facilities. It doesn't really matter that they're opening up new facilities with old funds; nonetheless the government can, in some honesty, say that new ones are going to open up this year. It doesn't really matter they withheld funds for some time. I suppose to them if you open it up you open it up. It doesn't matter how many spaces you need. It doesn't matter how long the money has been held. When it's open you can cut the ribbon and that's the purpose of it all.

I don't really think I've ever heard anybody say that Ontario had a daycare system which was luxurious or which was way beyond what was actually needed. Most people will recognize that in that particular field we are well behind what we ought to have. There is that need for good-quality day care, and there is, if you want to be very



selfish about it, a need for the general population to see that that is provided. If you're unhappy with the idea of people living off welfare and you really want to encourage them to use the old work ethic and get back to work and support themselves in large measure, then you've got to give them the means to do that.

The fact is, it's not there; it just isn't there. What small movements were made in the last few years to get there—in terms of counselling, in terms of rehabilitation, in terms of providing daycare services—all of that is being cut back.

I fail to see how there is going to be any saving in the long run. Somehow or other you're going to pay for that. Whether you're into some kind of private daycare storage system, where you shove the kids in; or whether you want to do it properly and give them some care, one way or the other you'll pay. You'll either pay now when they're young or you'll pay later when they're older. If you want to get at something like the crime problem which I discussed earlier, this is one of the ways to do it—provide good-quality daycare for that kind of child in that kind of home.

One of the highlights of the House so far has been the performance of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor). I have some appreciation of the difficulties he has from time to time. I would like to think that he's not really a bad person. I would like to think that he's a little ignorant, by times, of the ramifications of the things that he does, and that as he becomes more and more aware of what happens when he says something, or does something, or makes some motion like restricting a budget, he will change his mind.

We have seen some small indication of changing statures, I suppose. I really don't think he saved anybody any money, but I am firmly convinced that he has caused a lot of people a lot of grief; and that is really a pretty hefty price to pay.

I really don't understand all of the discussions of savings that he purported to put out in the first place, and then the rather unfortunate comments he made from time to time. I certainly understand his problems with the press and media, who have that disturbing habit of actually saying today the things one said two days ago, and then repeating them tomorrow so that one can't forget about them. That's a cross we all have to bear.

If not on economic grounds and if not on intellectual grounds, at least on compassion-

ate grounds I would like to see the government respond to that need in the community. The need is real—I don't see anybody arguing about that—but I don't see that response. I hear it promised a lot. I heard the Premier of the province (Mr. Davis) say they were compassionate people who dealt with people's needs. I heard the Minister of Community and Social Services say, quite plainly, that he was going to see that no one in need would ever really suffer. He is going to have some difficulty reconciling that. I would really like to see them do it.

One of the other things I want to discuss is the role of the ordinary citizen in Ontario. We have a pretty rich history and tradition of people participating in their community. This morning I attended a mental health banquet; it was just chock-full of people who had spent their time and efforts over the last few years working in the area of mental health, with the civil servants and supposedly with the help and encouragement of the government of Ontario.

I can quote a number of other small things in my own riding to illustrate this point. There is a little thing called Handy Transit, which I suppose is kind of a silly name, but it does very good work. It's just a couple of little vans to take around people who are handicapped. Now that seems like nothing. But for someone who is in a wheel chair and can't get anywhere, that's the key or mechanism that gets them out and into the community. Over the last couple of years, when we have had that little organization working in the city of Oshawa, we've seen our people out a good deal more. In fact, a fellow by the name of Doug won the "man of the year" award, and he is handicapped. As a matter of fact, he is now the president of the Handy Transit organization. It's a very important little key; it's not all that expensive and not all that cumbersome an organization. It doesn't have a big bureaucracy; it's run out of one person's home. But it is having trouble, because it can't get any money. This organization has applied to the government. It's too bad they weren't running a grape-stomping festival or they would have qualified for Wintario; or that they weren't an established bureaucracy or they would have got some money out of somebody else. But because they are new, because they are different and because they don't fit into anybody's box, they don't get any money. They have tried twice and we have talked—but there is still no money forthcoming.

There is another small organization—there are similar ones throughout the province—called Helping Hand. Again it is not a big



deal. It's just a group of people who got together and said there are lots of people in our community who need a little help to do small jobs. They need a porch repaired, they need something painted, they need some backyards cleaned up—little, everyday kind of handyman things. And there is this little organization that provides that. But it too is having its financial difficulties. It doesn't pay big money but it does have a staff of two or three people, who oddly enough are those same people who once were on welfare and are now employed in this field. They do these little odd jobs for senior citizens or people who need that kind of help. It can't exist any more either.

The classic one from my riding is a boys' club that has been established for some time now, Simcoe Hall, a place called Eastview Boys' Club. The entire building was put up at no cost to the government, and the club has been running successfully for some time. It applied to the government for operational funds. The classic answer that came back from the Ministry of Community and Social Services was, "We are sorry. You don't get the money, because you are not innovative enough. You've been in business too long. In other words, you don't get it because you work. The thing you've got is actually operating. It's not pie in the sky. It's there. It's delivering a service to the community. And because of that, you don't qualify. You don't get any money." That's a ridiculous approach, I think, for a government to take.

I recognize the need for restraint as well as anybody else does. But in Ontario there is a tradition of small community groups getting together and, with a little bit of help from the government, providing a service to that community at a much cheaper dollar value than anything else we've got. If you want to see a real foul-up, watch a government bureaucracy move in on one of those; watch them hire the supervisory staff that never was there before and watch the paper work multiply. This is a government that seems to have a penchant for saying that if we ever got into power we'd riddle you with bureaucracy. I want to say very frankly that there is no chance at all, not a snowball's chance, that anybody could ever put into Ontario a larger and more costly bureaucracy than the Conservative government has put in here in 32 years. It's impossible. It has just hit bottom or top or whatever. It is just totally impossible to do anything.

These volunteer organizations—and they are all over the place in Ontario—have really served us well, and the funds are being slowly but surely withdrawn from these groups. We

heard this morning that maybe mental health associations will get some funds later on when the government has sorted out this whole health care mess. One of the things that has got them really mad and upset—and they are an odd group to be mad and upset, because they are usually reasonably well off, they are usually people who have a little bit of time to donate to their community; they are at least people who aren't suffering, although lately more and more people in the lower economic brackets are getting involved in these kinds of groups—but what really gets them mad is that nobody can tell them why all of this is happening.

You see, all of this has been decided on some secret priority list and nobody is prepared to tell us which of the many thousand secret task force reports are being used in any given situation—a kind of situation that we were discussing earlier today. Nobody really is prepared to tell us what criteria are involved. We can't have an argument about it all.

The government has a tendency to say, "We are now going to do this," then if they need to they will pull out some task force. Of course, any good administrator who's worth his salt can find you a task force somewhere that proves your point. I'm told that in certain ministries they keep a file and when the minister wants a task force to prove whatever particular point he's on that day, the administrator's job is to pull that particular report and give it to him. And that's the only one that comes out—and even then only those parts of it that he really wants to use.

That's kind of unfortunate, because what it really means is that the people of Ontario who need that kind of service are subject to straight political shifts. The government is not in a position where it has to rationalize the situation. The government's not in a position where it has to produce facts and figures and statistics and reports. It produces only what it wants. It first does the action and then subsequently will send somebody out to find out why they did it. That has happened again and again in the last six months and it's still happening.

One of the difficulties they are having in all of this is to try to sort it out. The plea I heard this morning at the mental health association was a very simple one and, I thought, a most reasonable one, and one put in a very reasoned and responsive way. What were the priorities in all these health care cuts? What was number one and what was number two? What criteria were used? What reports



did they use? Where did you get that kind of information?

"Who decided?" is an interesting one. There were some interesting discussions this morning about whether or not health councils decided these things. There weren't health councils, so it couldn't have been them. It must have been somebody on the ministry staff, but who did that and was his report right? What was the magic formula that was arrived at?

All of those are questions that I can't answer to my people, because the government hasn't bothered to bring it to the attention of the House.

Another thing—and this little part is sort of inspired by the Premier (Mr. Davis) himself, who on one day, in interjections back and forth across the House, raised the point that really rather hit me sorely. He said that we in the opposition didn't understand rural Ontario—none of us. There are a lot of us who were born and raised in rural Ontario; I spent 20 years there. I rather take offence to that. There are a number of people of these benches who have lived their life in rural, eastern Ontario, and I rather think we do understand.

Mr. Samis: Some ridings of eastern Ontario have dirt farmers from Toronto representing them.

Mr. Breaugh: I know one.

Mr. Samis: Prince Edward-Lennox.

Mr. Breaugh: One of the things that I think you've stumbled on in some faint way—and I think it's a bad move—was the little thing about the small hospitals in Ontario. In one sense, in a very crass political sense, I can understand that if you are going to make some cuts that people will see, you've got to shut down the whole machine. Never mind 24 beds here or 16 beds there, close the whole schlemiel; shut the door, pack them off somewhere. Certainly they will see that.

And the way these cuts were announced certainly tended to heighten that kind of an idea. The minister each day went to a new place, followed by the press, and if he got lucky somebody threw a snowball at him and a small riot ensued. But you shut it down entirely.

I think what you misunderstood in all that is that that's not really the point. The point is not saving a few dollars, three or four per cent, out of the health care budget. The point is where you hit. I think it shows a real lack of understanding on the part of the

government of what a small rural, Ontario town really is. It's much more, a whole lot more, than a health care delivery system. As a matter of fact that's maybe not even the priority item in some instances. It's much more than that.

Those hospitals in many cases were put up, brick by brick, by the people there. They were paid for by those people, by and large. The equipment that goes into them is put in, not the way it is done in a big city where everything goes in at once, but this year the women's auxiliary buys this and next year the Rotary Club buys that, and the following year the Lions Club buys something else. Each little component in that health care unit or that hospital, if we want to talk English about it all, each little bit of that hospital is a part of that community.

[5:15]

That's how they got a hospital in the first place, and to a large extent the services that are rendered there are done so by volunteers, they're done by the people in that community, and they take great pride in going back to that hospital, having achieved that initial success of getting one up, and making it a better place, and putting in their time on volunteer services in that hospital. I really think that is a major flaw, and perhaps a fatal one, in what the government has done in that particular area. That hospital is a focal point for that community. That's a big deal. Drive down University Ave. and there are hospitals all over the place, but go to little rural Ontario and the hospital is a big deal there.

It employs a lot of people, for one thing. It's a source of great local pride. It's a place where the doctors and the nurses and the attendants go every day. There's that other tradition there, that if one lives in a place in Napanee, where I come from, when somebody is sick, one goes and sees them. We don't send flowers or stuff like that, although that happens as well, but almost everybody who knows that guy goes to visit him in the hospital and they do that two or three times while he's in there. One can't do that if the hospital isn't there, and one sure can't do that if the hospital is 50 miles away.

Maybe that's got nothing to do with health care services, although I would make the argument that it really does. I think that when my dad was in the hospital recently it meant a lot to him that people he knew could come to see him. I think that's an important part of health care services, frankly. Some bureaucrat sitting in Queen's

Park has his little secret formula and his little secret documented report there that says that hospital ought to close because it's within 10 or 15 or 20 miles of some other major hospital, and he says according to all these criteria that thing ought to shut down. We ought to take that gentleman and we ought to park his rear end in the middle of Chesley in the winter and let him watch the snow fall and then get out his little criteria and let him see if they still fit, let him try trudging down the road.

I think it's just that kind of misunderstanding of rural Ontario that's causing some problems here. If there's too much snow on the road, people in Toronto take the subway. There's a lot of places in Ontario where there isn't any subway and if there's too much snow on the road you stay home. There is that difference. There are all kinds of examples of that and they've been raised in the House quite thoroughly.

I'm not terribly sure that criteria, whatever it was, that was selected, fits anywhere. One of the things that's causing a problem now is the projected fear. Even in those places that haven't had a closing everybody is worried about it. Frankly, I read the game plan on the other side of the House to be this way: they would announce 24 closings and then they would say, "We won't close 24, we'll close 12. Twelve hospitals say, 'We've missed it, somebody else got it.'" Everybody else in a major urban area will say, "It didn't shut us down. It might have cut us back but it didn't shut us down," and only 12 little places get it in the head. Then they can probably move that back to eight, and if they're prepared to discuss it a bit more and the heat gets hot they just move it back to six. And if they're left with six Liberal ridings in the western part of the Province of Ontario, who cares anyway. That's the game plan that I read from the other side of the House.

Where it went wrong, quite frankly, is that people do relate to that. People understand that. Members would be amazed at the number of people from my riding who know those hospitals. They go to those areas for their vacation. A great many of them, surprisingly enough, have relatives there, and that's why they care. A great many of them just plain care because they think that was a wrong move on the part of the government. The savings may have been great, but one of the added expenses they had was they had to go out and buy the deputy minister another Buick, and there's another \$9,000 or \$10,000 there that really isn't a saving. It

might have been good in the first instance, but it wasn't a saving in the long run.

One of the things they have done, that's a fatal move is that they have made a number of people from rural Ontario who didn't know this government from beans come into contact with this big bureaucracy. It's quite one thing for a government to have a cabinet minister come and cut the ribbon at the opening. Everybody likes that in a small town. They don't like dealing with the big wheels in the Ministry of Health or Community Services, or anything else for that matter. They don't understand those people, they don't understand the way they operate and they don't like it, and unfortunately more and more people are being exposed to that.

One of the things that I heard in this House the other day that I thought was really cute was a lecture on the work ethic. It was a lecture on the work ethic to this party and I guess to the members of the Liberal Party, although it was a little difficult to discern which way the finger was pointing from time to time. I got a lecture the other day on the work ethic from somebody who I don't think has worked in my definition of work one day in his life. I just don't take lectures from Bay St. lawyers or large financiers on the work ethic.

The benches over here are full of people who have spent their lives working in mines; they are full of people who are farmers' sons who have put themselves through university. If you like, they are self-made men. Perhaps they chose not to be great capitalist entrepreneurs but at least in their own term they put themselves through school and they worked very hard. I think we all get a little upset when the lectures are delivered on the work ethic by somebody who really hasn't done that kind of thing at all. In my view, a great deal of that is from somebody who really never worked a day in his life.

I want to make reference to one other thing here and it refers to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor). It's a column that I read actually in a paper that I suppose has not been quoted in this House many times—the Napanee Beaver. I want to explain that the Napanee Beaver is from a riding that has been Conservative provincially and federally since Confederation. I want to point out that this is the first time in history that the Napanee Beaver had ever criticized a member of the government, let alone a government minister.

**Mr. McClellan:** It won't be the last time.



**Mr. Breagh:** They did. What I found extremely interesting is that it makes reference to one of my high school history teachers who is probably the most conservative man that I have ever met in my life. That's with a small "c"—and I think with a large "c" as well. He certainly is no radical. He makes some interesting comments in here and they have to do with this kind of difficulty that the government has in relating to the people of Ontario. The paper says:

One of Mr. Taylor's problems is that he says one thing but the government departments do another. This has been the case with the Children's Aid Society, the hospital, and the water and sewer project undertaken by the joint efforts of three municipalities—Napanee, Richmond and North Fredericksburgh.

That's tough stuff coming from that kind of a paper. Let me just pursue this a bit more. Here they are referring to my high school history teacher. I really love this because he is into politics now and it's great.

He continues with what is perhaps the nub of the whole issue as far as feelings in this community are concerned:

Get this: One would almost think that this Tory who is selected from that riding actually wasn't born and bred there and that he doesn't understand eastern Ontario, because it says here:

Years before you arrived here our community took the initiative to conceive and pay for almost half the cost of a county hospital, and have continued to give freely of time and money since. You keep speaking publicly of the need for the return of the old-fashioned virtues of private community involvement, and yet wield a powder puff when the fruits of our individual initiative are being undermined in your own constituency.

I have just one last little bit out of here because this is kind of precious stuff for me, although it is meaningless to everybody else.

A lot is being said about the gigantic provincial debt and the need for belt-tightening. No one argues with this. But did you speak out publicly in this riding three or four years ago when your government was permitting the \$1.3 billion urban transit plan or spending \$250,000 simply publicizing the new transportation scheme in the media? Our frightful provincial debt didn't start yesterday. It has been growing for years and informed insiders like yourself should have known this and spoken up a year sooner. My point is that your

eleventh-hour conversion to economy, like cutting one-third of our hospital beds, for example, smacks of political pragmatism and insults our rural eastern Ontario intelligence.

Somebody from the ministry, one of the ministries, ought to send somebody out to eastern Ontario to talk to those people.

**Mr. Bounsall:** They are afraid to go.

**Mr. Breagh:** Clearly they don't think that you understand rural Ontario. Isn't that unusual? I want just to sum up a couple of points.

I appreciate that the Throne Speech is not always meant to be a great and glorious document but this one really was rather inept in terms of what was in it—virtually nothing. I hear a lot of flak floating around on the benches about the amendment over here.

I simply want to state very clearly, as everybody else has said, that this part of the House is devoted to the opposition and that's what we intend to do—tell the government the ways in which we differ from it, tell how we would propose alternatives to it, propose amendments to its legislation and to its Throne Speech, and that's precisely what happened. The amendment is right there. All one simply has to do is read it, and if one agrees with it so much—

**Mr. Bullbrook:** You voted with the government in December. Have you that short a memory?

**Mr. Breagh:** If you agree with it so much that you really want to pose a subamendment, go to it—any way you want to do it; subamendment first—

**Mr. Samis:** Did you want a January election?

**Mr. Good:** Do you want a May one?

**Mr. Breagh:** Mr. Speaker, while the opinion poll continues over here on whether they will or they won't, I warn them: Don't decide early—

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Don't pontificate. You voted with the government in December.

**Mr. Breagh:** Leave your option open. Leave your option open.

**Mr. Speaker:** All right. The member for Oshawa has the floor.

**Mr. Breagh:** Well, that discussion will go on for a few more days at least.

I simply want to say that I believe in the amendment that we put. I think it identified very simply some very crucial issues on which the government has chosen not to move. We think we have identified—and in fact surveys show the people in my own riding, if the members are interested, support us on this—we have identified some major areas in which this government is not worthy of support. We have posed an amendment to that effect, and that's precisely how we will vote. In this particular Throne Speech I think we have seen a government that in many cases refuses to listen, doesn't want to hear, and has opted for a political expediency route. We are not about to support that and we won't support it on April 5.

**Mr. Conway:** Mr. Speaker, I shall endeavour to telescope my remarks into the remaining 30 minutes before the evening recess. I think being one of the new boys and certainly being rather junior in age, I would think it to be something less than proper for me to presume that I would have a great deal to say in matters that predate my presence here. Unlike my hon. colleague from Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh), it is not my intention to pontificate at any great length.

I was particularly interested, though, that the hon. gentleman from Oshawa, in the kindness of his heart, had so many pertinent, I might say, and endearing comments about those of us in the fine and eastern portion of this province—a portion which has been moving in a certain electoral and political direction which I am sure brings more than a little bit of discomfort to more than the Napanee Beaver.

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with my colleagues not only in the Liberal Party, but of the government and official opposition parties. My background is more restricted and certainly more limited than my hon. friends, from places like Toronto Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor) and Burlington South (Mr. Kerr) and Guelph (Mr. Worton) and those areas where the representatives represent years of experience, which at my tender age I cannot presume to have; not to forget my good friend from Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook), who is something of a mentor to those of us of his caucus—

**Mr. Bounsall:** That's what the problem is, is it?

**Mr. Conway:** —who have growing pains in this very trying time of minority government.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** It's not very trying as long as you're not a Liberal.

**Mr. Conway:** It is also very interesting to hear my good friends from Oshawa and, peripherally or parenthetically, from Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), tell us just how it is their very distinguished party intends to react to those propositions to be squarely put in the next few days. It interests me as a student of history in Canada and in the Province of Ontario that the democratic left is behaving as it now is, with, by its own admission, no little bit of consistency and honour. It was a movement that began with what we used to call "gingerism," moved through a very apoplectic state of what one might call extreme leftism, and now has moved nicely, so it would appear, into the Mackenzie King-styled moderate centre.

**Mr. Samis:** Sounds like Kingston whiggery; Queen's University philosophy—

**Mr. Conway:** And oh, how things change. Yes, how things change.

**Mr. Samis:** The philosophy of Queen's.  
[5:30]

**Mr. Conway:** I couldn't help but think, when I listened to some of the earlier comments from those members to my right, about the sense of purity and, what shall we say, consistency that is the preserve of our good friends in the democratic left. Again, I was thinking about where that particular movement began, just to make myself intellectually more comfortable with what it was they were saying and where it was that they came from. I was looking at those two gentlemen who offered that famous doctrine, I suppose, to which the gentlemen to my right still bow in reverence every evening and in the morning, that so-called Regina manifesto. It was kind of interesting, I thought, that two of its authors, one of whom I was talking to not so very long ago, should begin in those humble days in 1932 and 1933, castigating, for whatever good reason, those horrible Grits and awful supporters of that now very interesting man, Mackenzie King, for all which was unheroic, disgusting—

**Mr. Samis:** Now you're obsessed with him.

**Mr. Conway:** —lacking in principle in politics. Then I thought how interesting it was that those two authors would end up where they did. One of them ending up curator of Mackenzie King's home in Ottawa and, worse still, writing eulogistic and positive commentaries on what that man had to offer and what that man had to tell us about success in the Canadian political spectrum. Indeed, those lessons have been learned



by the hon. member for Scarborough West (Mr. Lewis), whose sense of moderation is indeed—

**Mr. Lawlor:** As you get older you cool out.

**Mr. Conway:** —different from that which he naturally expressed—

**Mr. Nixon:** Move over, Patrick.

**Mr. Conway:** —in those days when he, like me, was the tender age of 24 or 25. I thought it was interesting, too, that one of the other gentlemen, who so principally and so self-righteously—as is the case with that party sometimes; not always, because I've heard the member from Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) express a certain opinion from the spectrum from which he, I presume, once came—that one of the other gentlemen would end up, of all places, appointed by a Liberal government to the Senate of Canada. I simply, by way of digression, draw attention to these two, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps footnote the fact that if there is a lesson in history it is that the politics of purity, consensus and consistency belong to and can be appropriated by no one group. No matter what the hon. gentleman to my right might like to tell us, such is not the case.

Interjection.

**Mr. Conway:** But to return to the most pure part of this great province, the fine and glorious county of Renfrew, with some hopes I come—

**Mr. Samis:** You are skipping a lot.

**Mr. Conway:** —bearing greetings from those—

**Mr. Samis:** That's intellectual dishonesty.

**Mr. Conway:** If the hon. gentleman from Cornwall would cease being so obstreperous—

**Mr. Nixon:** You mean provocative.

**Mr. Conway:** Seeing that I, in the goodness of my heart, listened to the orations of his hon. colleagues, I'm sure that the member for Stormont will bear with me as I try to get in under the hour of 6 o'clock.

As I say, the people of Renfrew county, both north and south ridings, send their best wishes not only to Her Honour but to all the ladies and gentlemen of this very august body, which they tell me they have been watching with no little bit of enthusiasm on the electronic media these days, and telling me that they're impressed with what they see, and certainly they have every right to be.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** And they don't want an election.

**Mr. Conway:** The good people of Renfrew county feel now that there is a certain balance brought to their political diet which, for these many years, has been somewhat missing. It's indeed interesting—

**Mr. Foulds:** Only in political, not in personal terms.

**Mr. Conway:** Oh, certainly. I wouldn't ever dispute the wisdom of the member for Port Arthur, whose patience and whose foresight I'm always willing to listen to.

**Mr. Samis:** Get a New Democrat in Renfrew North.

**Mr. Conway:** I think the occasion certainly presents itself to me, as a new member, to acknowledge and to recognize the contributions of my predecessor, Maurice Hamilton, who for 17 years sat as the member for Renfrew North. While Mr. Hamilton and I certainly shared few political allegiances and no party affiliation, I certainly think it would be remiss of me not to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of my constituents, thanks for his years of effort on behalf of those constituents. While we have had differences politically, I think it is important that each and every member of this House certainly acknowledges the contribution made by Mr. Hamilton, and I do so with a great deal of enthusiasm.

I was thinking about that election. We had a fairly interesting election in Renfrew North—

**Mr. Nixon:** They always are.

**Mr. Conway:** It was back in September, 1975, I think it was; it seems so very long ago. We had three people running, representing the three political parties in Ontario. Again, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to congratulate the honourable representative of that very honourable party, a representative of the democratic left, who I might say did not do too badly with the good burghers of Renfrew county, and certainly in the north riding. They tell me there may be some truth to the rumour that he may be riding the horse again; I notice a great deal of interest in the recurring visits of the member for Scarborough West (Mr. Lewis), who while he admits that he didn't know where we were for the years previous to September, 1975, has certainly landed with a bit of a crash, and has been there more often than not. And let me say that I welcome him with open arms.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Was your opponent a socialist or a social democrat?

**Mr. Conway:** Well, he did not quite determine that.

**Mr. Samis:** NDP all the way.

**Mr. Ruston:** They are not sure what they are.

**Mr. B. Newman:** He's still trying to figure it out.

**Mr. Conway:** He may very well end up in the Senate. I never know these things, the hon. member for Sarnia might know, because quite frankly I am a man who looks upon party affiliation with some degree of suspicion, given my years of experience and natural conservative tendencies.

**Mr. Samis:** How many years a Liberal?

**Mr. Conway:** How many years a Liberal? Well, I also bring greetings from my grandfather, who at 96 is still alive and—

**Mr. Samis:** An open mind—an open mind.

**Mr. Conway:** —who sat in this assembly from 1929 to 1945. He told me last night that he hoped that when I spoke today that I would remember that restraint was certainly an issue when George Drew, Ted Jolliffe, Mitchell Hepburn and company were trying to deliberate the affairs of this province back in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. So I bring his greetings as well.

I hope that the good member for Cornwall understands, briefly, that I am a man of ecumenical political tendencies—

**Mr. Samis:** No, no. You haven't convinced anybody of that.

**Mr. Conway:** —and not any narrow-minded fool who thinks that the liquor interests are out to undermine the hon. Premier in such a malicious way as to discountenance the Province of Ontario and its fine members of cabinet and government. Clearly there are those in this House who share something less of that view of the world than I might have.

One thing I have noticed in the months following my election—and it was a narrow election, I must say; it was not what one could call a great and glorious popular mandate, for 36.3 per cent of the vote is certainly not the kind of thing that makes one feel that there is a tremendous consensus about what it is—

**Mr. Nixon:** That's what the government got.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** It was just a beginning for you in any event.

**Mr. R. S. Smith:** But the end for them.

**Mr. Conway:** Well, that being the case I think again that it would be presumptuous of me to say that the county was of a particular mind insofar as who it would send to this particular assembly in representation of its particular interests.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** You mean you are the best of a bad lot?

**Mr. Conway:** That, of course, is for their determination at a future date.

**Mr. Foulds:** It is pretty bad when you get heckled by your own guys.

**Mr. Conway:** Well, the clear Grit tradition in Ontario, as the hon. member for Port Arthur knows, is one which values the independence of the individual member; and we certainly feel a reluctance to subscribe to that authoritarianism which has produced in Ontario, and in federal politics in this country, more purges than Stalin possibly could have conceived—

**Mr. Foulds:** You are talking about Trudeau now.

**Mr. Samis:** That's right. Defend Trudeau. Don't knock him.

**Mr. Conway:** No, we are talking about the Waffle perhaps, and a few other such types. But with that kind of discussion, we can happily return—

**Mr. Nixon:** Some of you guys used to be Waffles.

**Mr. Foulds:** You want to Waffle? You can have it.

**Mr. Conway:** I am quite anxious, certainly now that my good friend from Durham East has returned to keep me on a moral path, if nothing else—

**Mr. Moffatt:** What would you do without us?

**Mr. Conway:** —that we will return to those deliberations and associations that federal and provincial parties might have, particularly in this, the central province of the fair Dominion of Canada.



**Mr. Mackenzie:** How come you always come to us for help?

**Mr. Conway:** I allow my good friend from Hamilton East a cottage in the county of Renfrew; I hope he doesn't push his luck.

But one of the things that was interesting, subsequent to my election in September, was the feeling held and expressed by some in some areas of the county that the change of party representation in that particular part of Ontario—which obviously has not seen a great deal of that in the past 35 years at any rate—might do certain things to the local political culture which might not be healthy. As a young person who grew up in the area I refuse to believe that there could be a tendency on the part of any political group to strike out at a particular riding that, for whatever reason in a democratic election and in a parliamentary kind of society, might have opted for something other than the government alternative.

So I began believing that this, in rural eastern Ontario—and I know rural eastern Ontario both personally and to some extent historically. I know what the political traditions are there and they are not traditions which, we, I think, as a group, want to bring into the 1970s. It represents a kind of Tammany Hall politics, if you will. We can appreciate them in a different set of circumstances, but I simply will not accept them and hope others will not either. But with that set of values and set of ideas I began approaching my new job—and, I'll admit my first job, to those who might not think that I had such before—

**Mr. Moffatt:** An honest job, too.

**Mr. Conway:** —and certainly an honest job. That I certainly couldn't dispute.

**Mr. Samis:** You have no work ethic.

**Mr. Conway:** The work ethic and I are dear friends.

**Mr. Moffatt:** From a distance, mind you.

Interjections.

**Mr. Conway:** One of the things that has concerned me in the brief period of time since my election in September, 1975, is a certain amount of evidentiary material which supports the contention that there still is in rural eastern Ontario, in Tory eastern Ontario, a sense of party affiliation that normally permeates the government service. That's changing; and for that the government must take its share of praise and I grant it that. It's

a slow process, one which I would like to see move with a greater degree of dispatch and openness, but it is changing.

But I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that if I see in the next few months any more evidence of the fact that the Progressive Conservative Party still considers eastern Ontario the kind of fiefdom that it was in the electoral sense for all these many years, I intend to make loud and frequent protests. I know I am supported in this what I hope is a modern approach to politics in our society. I know, for example, the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson), as a new representative in the government and as a minister of the Crown, shares with me my enthusiasm for this kind of non-partisan politics.

Interjections.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Right on. Right on.

**Mr. Good:** He gets everything that a member needs for his riding.

**Mr. Conway:** And in a quiet way, because I am a quiet person, I want to register this in advance to some extent, because although the bulk of the population in the constituency which I represent, does not subscribe to this view of the world and view of the province, and view of party politics any longer, they assume that the politics of Tammany Hall as they apply to our area are a picturesque and academic part of our historical record. I hope, for the goodness of us all in that area, that no member of this government and no member of the government party is as indiscreet, is as unwise, to move in a direction that might attempt to reinstitute or cultivate that kind of Neanderthal policy.

**Mr. Bounsall:** Without it going through you.

**Mr. Conway:** Without it going through me, because I am the kind of moral clearing house and the kind of social arbiter of whom not only the Pope and the Queen can be proud—

**Mr. Samis:** What kind of candidates are the Grits recruiting?

**Mr. Moffatt:** Don't be so sanctimonious.

**Mr. Conway:** That's certainly a man in a mould, and of a moral conscience from whom even the hon. member for Cornwall could take rectitude.

**Mr. Moffatt:** You're socialist material, that's what you are.

**Mr. Conway:** I just register that for the record of this House.

**Mr. Samis:** Don't forget Michael Houlton.

**Mr. Conway:** It concerned me to some extent when in December of 1975, in an effort to pay tribute to a man who deserved the tribute that was given to him: my predecessor, the Progressive Conservative member of this assembly—and applaud you should; I think it is proper and I would do so myself.

But on that occasion I found it insulting to the man, and silly and improper for the government party to take advantage of, not a party occasion but a constituency occasion to pay tribute to a fine and honourable man, that a representative—thankfully not a cabinet representative, because they couldn't find time, in England, to pay that tribute to a man who had belonged to their group for 17 years—but as I say, I found it repugnant and I found it unacceptable that my hon. colleague the member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski) should have thought it advisable, on the advice, presumably of his government friends, to stand up and mutter, in the way that only he can mutter, that statement that the Pembroke Marina would receive \$2 million. It was not so much that the Pembroke Marina would receive the \$2 million, I was improper in stating that; but he got up and said, much to the complete surprise of everyone there, that there was going to be a \$2 million appropriation made by the government to something in Renfrew county.

When asked by various people present what this might be, no one seemed to know. But the fact of the matter is that it represented the kind of politics which we will not accept any longer. The government has a right to make its announcements and I welcome ministers of the Crown, including my hon. friend from Prince Edward-Lennox. In fact, we welcome our good friends from the democratic left but we presume that on such occasions we will not see the kind of partisan politics which, I think, we have all agreed—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. minister.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Mr. Speaker, I'm advised that the Honourable the Administrator, in the absence of Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, awaits outside the chamber to

give royal assent to the interim supply bill. If the hon. member would care to adjourn the debate while we look after the royal assent, then we can reconstitute the debate before 6 o'clock.

**Mr. Conway:** I would be delighted to, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Conway:** I move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

The Administrator of the Province of Ontario entered the chamber of the legislative assembly and took his seat upon the throne.

## ROYAL ASSENT

**Hon. G. A. Gale** (Administrator of the Province of Ontario): Pray be seated.

**Mr. Speaker:** May it please Your Honour: We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and faithful subjects of the legislative assembly of the Province of Ontario in session assembled, approach Your Honour with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and government, and humbly beg to present for Your Honour's acceptance, a bill intituled, An Act granting to Her Majesty Certain Additional Sums of Money for the Public Service for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 1976.

**Clerk of the House:** The Honourable the Administrator of the Province of Ontario doth thank Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, accept their benevolence and assent to this bill in Her Majesty's name.

The Honourable the Administrator was pleased to retire from the chamber.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Clerk of the House:** The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address and reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I inquire of the hon. member if he has more than three or four minutes, if so I—

**Mr. Conway:** Yes, I have, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would be pleased to recognize the clock then and recess the House.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.



## APPENDIX

(See page 665)

The answer to a question was tabled as follows:

15. *Mr. Grande*—Inquiry of the ministry: 1. What provincial ministries are involved in multiculturalism; what are the specific responsibilities of each; what moneys are available in 1976 to each ministry for use in the multicultural area? 2. Has the government policies concerning multiculturalism, particularly in regard to: (a) reception and orientation; (b) language and culture; (c) education? 3. What moneys are available to ethnic community groups to support: (a) local reception and orientation programmes; (b) language and culture programmes; (c) who administers these programmes; what are the criteria used in granting financial support; to whom does one apply?

Answer by the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch):

1. The province announced its commitment to multiculturalism in 1969 at the Second Constitutional Conference when it endorsed the principle that "Canada is a bilingual country while maintaining its multicultural character."

Multiculturalism relates to almost every facet of society's activities, and it is in this sense that most ministries of the government are involved, in one degree or another, in responding to the multicultural nature of our society.

In this sense too, it is impossible and perhaps inappropriate to try to isolate specific funds used for "multicultural purposes" in each ministry as government services are provided to each citizen or resident of Ontario without regard to his or her ethnic background.

A basic tenet of the present multicultural policy is the need for an awareness of the many different value systems and characteristics which now make up Ontario society. This results in the need to design government programmes and develop a sensitivity of public servants to a broader spectrum of values and needs.

In ensuring that programmes and services reach various communities for which they are intended, many ministries are, however, employing multilingual staff, and producing materials in many languages. For example, the Ministry of Health has the OHIP application forms and the Canada Food Guide, available in several languages. The Ministry of Labour, in particular, has been most concerned with their multilingual capacity. Two information centres (one on College St. and one opened on Nov. 20 in the northwest of the city), have been opened in areas with a large ethnic population to ensure optimum service to these communities. And the Ministry of Industry and Tourism is responsible for "Ontario 20"—a multilingual information programme regarding all Government services.

Notwithstanding the development of a multilingual capacity within many ministries, these are designed as transitional services and not in any way to supplant or to affect the two official languages of Canada (English and French).

However, certain government bodies have particular responsibilities in this field:

These include:

### Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism

Appointed Sept. 26, 1973, the terms of reference for the council are to advise the government of Ontario, through the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, on policies with direct implications for Ontario's cultural communities. The council is to be composed of not more than thirty members and it shall submit a report annually to the provincial secretary outlining its activities and views.

Budget 1975-1976 ..... \$113,000

### Ontario Human Rights Commission

The commission reports to the Legislature through the Ministry of Labour and administers the Ontario Human Rights Code, which is based on the public policy that all residents are free and equal in dignity and rights, without regard to race, creed, colour, age, sex, marital status, nationality, ancestry and place of origin. The commission's programme objectives are pursued through a four-point programme of conciliation and enforcement, community problem solving, public education and research.

Budget 1975-1976 ..... \$964,000

**Ministry of Education**

The Ministry of Education is responsible for the education of all children in this province, irrespective of race, creed, colour, or country of origin. The curricula of the schools are designed so that each child may have the opportunity to develop abilities and aspirations without the limitations imposed by any form of discrimination.

The goals of education as outlined in ministry guidelines are that each child will be provided with opportunities: to acquire the basic skills fundamental to his or her continuing education; to develop and maintain confidence and a sense of self-worth; to gain the knowledge and acquire the attitudes that he or she needs for active participation in Canadian society; to develop the moral and aesthetic sensitivity necessary for a complete and responsible life.

The basic philosophy of bilingualism and multiculturalism is manifest in the schools in efforts: (a) to help the immigrant acquire as quickly as possible, an official language; (b) to assist all students in acquiring French through regular school programming, and (c) to encourage boards to provide programmes for all students that will enable them to acquire a reasoned knowledge of, and pride in Canada; that will help them develop and retain a personal identity by becoming acquainted with the historical roots of the community and the culture of their origins, and by developing a sense of continuity with the past, so that they may begin to understand and appreciate the points of view of ethnic and cultural groups other than their own.

**Ministry of Culture and Recreation**

It is the function of the ministry to advance and encourage responsible citizenship through the process of cultural and recreational development, including: (a) preserving and maintaining the cultural heritage of residents of Ontario with full recognition of their diverse traditions and backgrounds; (b) promoting access to the benefits of citizenship and of active involvement in the cultural and recreational life of the province, and (c) stimulating the development of new forms of cultural expression and promoting the concept of individual and community excellence.

In acknowledging the broad nature of multiculturalism, the Act establishing the Ministry of Culture and Recreation also states:

The minister shall, on his own initiative and through co-operation with the ministers having charge of the ministries of the public service of Canada, with the ministers having charge of the departments of the public service of Canada, with municipal councils, with school boards and boards of education, with other organizations and otherwise, in the cause of human betterment, advance and encourage the concept and ideal of full and equal citizenship among the residents of Ontario in order that all may exercise effectively the rights, powers and privileges and fulfil the obligations, duties and liabilities of citizens of Canada within the Province of Ontario. 1975, c. 18, s. 1, part.

**Citizenship branch**

Under the mandate of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, the citizenship branch is responsible for immigrant adjustment services, specifically reception, orientation and immigrant adult English, and French as second language programmes.

Budget .....	Field services .....	577,300
	Head office .....	\$1,382,000
	Grants .....	286,100
	Total .....	\$2,245,400

**Multicultural development branch**

Within the ministry's mandate of promoting full and equal citizenship, this branch has a responsibility for encouraging the preservation and recognition of the diverse cultures existing in the province, for encouraging a sharing of these cultures, for encouraging greater receptivity to cultural differences, and through the community development process of encouraging full participation by all citizens.

Budget .....	Head office .....	\$234,500
	Field services .....	152,400
	Grants .....	99,400
	Total .....	\$486,300



Franco-Ontarian Council .....	\$152,000
Indian Community Secretariat .....	\$624,300
Grant .....	\$2,251,100
Total .....	\$2,875,400

## 2a RECEPTION AND ORIENTATION

### i. Ministry of Education

#### For children

Boards of education are encouraged, through the compensatory education weighting factor, to provide reception and orientation classes for all children who need them. This compensatory education weighting factor generated, for example, in Metropolitan Toronto in 1974 approximately \$11 million extra funding at the secondary level and \$5 million at the elementary level.

#### Transitional language programmes

According to the Education Act, subsection 229-(1) (f) (1):

It is the duty of a teacher in instruction and in all communications with the pupils in regard to discipline and the management of the school to use the English language, except where it is impracticable to do so by reason of the pupil not understanding English . . .

This exception permits a school board to offer transitional language programmes in which children are taught their total school programme initially in their mother tongue, English being gradually introduced and instruction. The Toronto Board of Education offered such a programme in one public school (General Mercer) in junior and senior kindergarten in 1973-1974 and 1974-1975.

The Ministry of Education sponsored research into such a transitional programme for older immigrant students through its grants-in-aid of educational research. ("School and Community Co-operation in a Programme to Assist the Immigrant Student", OISE—Drs. K. Henderson and H. Silverman, 1972-1973).

The Metro Separate School Board co-operated in this experiment and the first class for Italian students was held in St. Clare School in 1972-1973. The success of the first group of students, who all moved into the English language stream within a year, encouraged the board to continue the programme at St. Clare School, and in 1974-1975 to offer it also at Richard W. Scott. Similar transitional programmes using Portuguese are at present being offered at St. Helen and St. Veronica schools.

#### For Adults

##### Language and citizenship instruction

In night-school and extension class programmes, many boards offer English and citizenship training for newcomers. Boards respond to local needs and this ministry pays the usual grants on whatever boards have spent. In 1973, the last year for which we have figures, boards spent \$680,115 on teaching salaries for citizenship and language classes.

### ii. Ministry of Culture and Recreation

The citizenship branch is responsible for the reception and orientation of adult newcomers.

The reception programme includes a multilingual counselling service at Toronto International Airport and the Welcome House, as well as consultative support and financial assistance to local agencies involved in reception services.

The orientation programme includes publications such as the "Handbook for Counsellors of Newcomers" and "Ontario and You" (available in 12 languages), orientation materials for use in language classes and orientation and citizenship classes in the community. There are 85 language and orientation programmes for immigrant women throughout the province, partially or wholly supported by the branch.

Within budget limitations the branch will support local reception and orientation programmes—reception through the grants budget and orientation through the staffing of classes with teachers bilingual in English and the language of the group attending each class. The branch assists boards of education and community colleges with the staff and materials necessary for the mothers and preschoolers programme.

## 2b LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

### i. Ministry of Education

Maintenance of the child's native language is seen primarily as a task of the home. Parents are encouraged to maintain the language at the elementary level in several ways:

1. Boards of education are encouraged to make school premises available to community groups after school and at weekends.

2. As stated above, secondary boards may offer language classes as part of their night-school or extension classes. Day-school students are permitted, subject to certain conditions, to attend.

3. Ministry guidelines for languages other than English, French—anglais, français are as follows:

(Ancient) Latin and Greek, 1969

German I and S.15, 1961

German S15B(13), 1968

Italian I and S.15, 1961

Italian S15D, 1968

Russian I and S15, 1961

Russian S15C(13), 1968

Spanish I and S43, 1964

Spanish S43(13), 1968

Other languages offered in Ontario high schools for credit (under innovative course procedures) are: Chinese, Finnish, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Ukrainian, Portuguese, Yiddish, Ojibway, Cree.

The following provincial statistics may be interesting: 65 experimental courses are being given in European languages other than French; 35 experimental courses are being given in Hebrew and Oriental languages; about 6,000 secondary students across the province are studying Italian; there are seven experimental courses in native Canadian languages.

Other languages being offered in elementary schools with ministry approval

For 1974-1975 the Ministry of Education permitted the Toronto Board of Education to introduce a Canadian/Chinese bilingual/bicultural course in Orde St. and Ogden public schools. The 30-minute programme was open to all pupils, and relied heavily on parent volunteers who worked under the supervision of the classroom teachers.

For 1975-1976 the Ministry of Education has permitted the Toronto Board of Education to introduce a Canadian/Greek bilingual/bicultural course in Jackman Ave. and Frankland junior schools. These programmes are open to all students.

### ii. Ministry of Culture and Recreation

Individual ethnic groups have the right, while retaining equal status in the broader community, to retain and develop their own language. It is considered that the primary onus for language retention and development (other than English or French) lies with the respective individual ethnic groups.

The citizenship branch is responsible for materials development and distribution for adult English and French as a second language programmes. Where new ESL programme initiatives cannot be funded by other educational agencies, the branch will staff the programme, within budget limitations.

The programmes of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation are concerned with increasing public awareness of our multicultural diversity; with encouraging cultural communities to participate and interact with the broader community around contemporary social issues; and with supporting mutual understanding, acceptance and enjoyment of the diverse cultures of Ontario's society.

## 2c EDUCATION

See answers to #1 and #2 above.

The Ministry of Education has created a committee on multiculturalism to review all educational issues in relation to the government's multicultural policy.



### 3a FUNDING

#### i. Ministry of Education

School programmes are the responsibility of the education administration division, more particularly the curriculum services branch. Funding is direct to boards of education through the school business and finance branch.

In addition to regular funding, boards can request money from the community school development grant in order to offer services or operate specific programmes to meet community needs. Some boards have had projects approved which are multicultural in nature. The maximum sum available is \$10,000 per project, per calendar year.

Another fund to which the public has access is the learning materials development fund. This is the first year the fund has been available. Several projects in the area of multiculturalism are under consideration.

Details regarding the specific criteria for these programmes can be obtained from the Ministry of Education.

#### ii. Ministry of Culture and Recreation

Money is available to local community groups for reception and orientation programmes through the grants budget (\$385,000 shared by the citizenship branch and the multicultural development branch in the fiscal year 1975-1976).

The grants budget has also been used in a supplementary fashion to the ministry field consultative services to support organizations, events, and activities that promote interaction and understanding among the various groups that comprise Ontario's society in distinctive preference over those which cater to cultural heritage preservation concerns.

The Ontario Arts Council provides grants to local and regional folk arts councils as well as an operating grant for the Ontario Folk Arts Council. These funds total \$38,000 in 1975-1976. In addition funds totalling \$50,000 are available through the Ministry of Culture and Recreation this year for special travel projects by provincial folk arts performing groups.

Ethnic community groups are eligible, of course, for all the other cultural programmes offered by this and other ministries.

The ministry's programmes are administered by the multicultural development and citizenship branches, in co-operation with the field services branch of the ministry.

The criteria for granting financial support through the grants budget are presently under review but groups interested in applying for funding assistance should apply to the director of the multicultural development branch of the ministry.

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Ontario. Legislative Assembly

# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

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Monday, March 29, 1976

Evening Session

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Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

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MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

## THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

**Mr. Speaker:** I recognize the member for Renfrew North.

**Mr. Kennedy:** You had a good dinner, I can tell.

**Mr. Nixon:** Get back to your seat.

**Mr. Conway:** Act 1, scene 1 of a most humble address to the most humble address to Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor. I stopped at the dinner hour at the end of the first section of this small discussion.

**Mr. Nixon:** It was just the introduction.

Interjection.

**Mr. Conway:** Well, I'm reminded—if I might be allowed one brief digression, Mr. Speaker—of something that was said by a very—

**Mr. Hodgson:** Bob Nixon is the only one who wants to hear it.

**Mr. Nixon:** Listen and you will learn.

**Mr. Conway:** I'm reminded of a story told by a most eminent Canadian from Elgin county who had the misfortune, at least from the point of view of those who lived in Elgin, of recording his memoirs for posterity, but in that John Galbraith noted that there was a very fine line between the articulate man's wisdom and the windbag, so I hope and I pray that I follow more closely to the former than the latter, and I shall try to be commensurate in my brevity.

Interjection.

**Mr. Conway:** There are certain issues that pertain and obtain in our particular part of Ontario that are extremely important in a local, parochial sense, and I know that members present will bear with me while I do something of the traditional speechmaking and make reference to a number of these issues.

Renfrew county is one of those parts of Ontario which has for the last number of years not witnessed, quite obviously, the degree of prosperity that has been the fortune of other more illustrious, perhaps, and fortunate parts anywhere from North York through Lambton to Windsor-Riverside and such places. We haven't had that kind of care, I suppose.

**An hon. member:** Here's the apple picker.

**Mr. Conway:** We've felt the very serious economic pinch, and so it was that in the election campaign of September, 1975, we did find a certain focus on issues economic. So it was, for example, that the local transportation system, and more particularly, the local roads became an issue of very considerable importance.

I know there are many in this room who might find it very difficult to relate to such a parochial issue as roads, but we in Renfrew county, and certainly in Renfrew North, felt very strongly about the fact that there was nothing—nothing in all the range of provincial government issues—that was more testament to the fact that this government over the 33 years in which it has not only been in power at Queen's Park, but during which time it had had local representation, nothing was more significant, nothing was more—as I said earlier—testament to the fact that they had chosen to pay less attention than we thought desirable for the economy of Renfrew county and in particular to the north riding of the county of Renfrew, than the absolutely deplorable condition of the highway network with which we found ourselves in the year 1975.

I think it important that the government of the day recognize that to the extent they no longer control in an electoral sense the north riding of the county of Renfrew, they pay heed to the fact that transportation systems in that particular area are a very significant matter of public concern and public policy. I was particularly appreciative of the response from the new Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow), who just a short time ago responded to an inquiry made by me several weeks ago, outlining in

a not too heroic fashion, I might add, what it was the government was prepared to do and not to do over the next 10 years in that particular area.

**Mr. Bain:** Nothing.

**Mr. Conway:** Whether or not the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Bain) has a sense of prophecy—

**Mr. Bain:** That's what they do to all our roads in the north. They're going to put in an austerity programme.

**Mr. Nixon:** They are going to roll them up.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Renfrew North has the floor. Thank you.

**Mr. Conway:** While not professing to be a prophet, unlike the member for Timiskaming—and I am not a prophet in politics, for those in the democratic left who—

**Mr. Bain:** The Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) said in his statement there would be a moratorium on building and repairing roads in the north.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Thank you.

**Mr. Conway:** Would that these hon. gentlemen would extend to a quiet, decent fellow as myself the sense of decorum—

**Mr. Nixon:** He is unreasonable.

**Mr. Conway:** After all, ladies and gentlemen of the 30th Parliament, we are here, are we not, to establish a new set of principles for the electronic media, who are going to be watching our every move.

**Mr. Breaugh:** That's not the final—

**Mr. Conway:** I would think it would be most indiscreet, particularly for the hon. gentleman from Timiskaming, who certainly has a reputation, in local terms at any rate, to be very careful about, because I understand that his predecessor was a man who graced this particular assembly in a unique way—

**Mr. Nixon:** He made a great impression.

**Mr. Conway:**—and I am sure the new member for Timiskaming would be very circumspect in his actions there too.

**Mr. Bain:** I trust that you prefer what I say about you to what he would say.

**Mr. Conway:** Pardon that digression as well. But it is important—

**Mr. Mancini:** He wants you to smarten up, Bob.

**Mr. Conway:** It is important for this government—

**Mr. Bain:** That's what he said. Why didn't he say so?

Interjection.

**Mr. Bain:** Control the rabble to your right over there.

Interjections.

**Mr. Conway:** I don't know how I brought this down upon myself. But it is important, I think, for the government and for this assembly to realize that there are parts of Ontario which are not beneficiary to the kind of transportation systems to which the hon. members in southern Ontario have grown accustomed. That is an obvious fact; I don't think it is one that we can expect to remedy overnight. I am not as naive as some who I am sure sit here and think that if we want it, we can have it overnight. I think we have got to be fair.

In our particular area we pay the gasoline tax, much of which is supposed to go into the highway construction fund; and when the gasoline tax is collected in my particular area there are many people who feel that we are not getting our fair share. For example, in the far northwestern portion of my riding, which is in the Algonquin Park area, there is in Whitney and in Madawaska—where I had a meeting just a week ago—a feeling of being cut off. Being nowhere near a public transportation system is an extremely vital concern, because in most cases the government nowadays assumes that there is a capacity for public transportation at any rate, so that if you are called to appear, in our case in Pembroke, for your unemployment insurance hearing, at least you can get there without undue difficulty. I hope that the government certainly takes into consideration these kinds of problems.

Nothing, in my estimation, highlighted the insensitivity of this government more so than when, a little over two years ago now, the Trans-Canada bridge at Petawawa fell and the 4,000 or 5,000 people situated on the Pembroke side were completely cut off from the employment which they find at the Canadian Forces Base Petawawa and Atomic Energy of Canada, beyond the Petawawa River. It seems like a small point until one realizes that much of the economic life blood in that particular area at that particular time was completely cut off and very seriously threatened.

What did the government have to tell us at that time? Well, the hon. gentlemen oppo-



site pronounced that it was a minor inconvenience. Indeed, it was a minor inconvenience to that government, which for so long had chosen to treat it as such. I presume that the measure of education extended to my hon. friends opposite as of 9 or 10 o'clock on the evening of Sept. 18, 1975, was the beginning of their education in what is fast becoming a new political awareness and a sense of injustice in our particular region, which has also found its course in areas represented by those from northern Ontario who understandably feel the same sense of distance and neglect.

We are told, for example, that the economic salvation in our particular region must ultimately lie with something known as tourism.

That brings me to a whole range of interesting items. There was created, for the encouragement of the tourist business in particular but for the economic furtherance of our area, something called the Eastern Ontario Development Corp.

The Eastern Ontario Development Corp. has now been an entity unto itself for something like 18 months to two years, and I found it very interesting upon my arrival here to see, as one of the first public documents that I saw, the list of disbursements given by the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. in its first year of operation. It was extremely interesting to note, for example, that in the county of Renfrew there were, I think, 17 disbursements, 15 of which went to the south riding in the county of Renfrew and only two went to the north riding. Out of the two that went into the north riding, not one addressed itself in geographic terms to the large economic centre of Pembroke and Petawawa. This is a situation which clearly is unacceptable.

I was looking the other day at one of the royal commissions done by our friends in Ottawa, by all our friends in Ottawa as representatives of the federal government, and in that there was an interesting exposé as to what the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. was capable of. We now learn that \$170,000 has been lost at Gomes Yarns in Renfrew, lost and squandered in the most indefensible of ways.

I am sure that our illustrious friends in the special programme review would reflect upon that with no little bit of chagrin and I know my hon. friends in this caucus look upon that kind of senseless and extravagant waste with a great deal of chagrin because the fact of the matter was that Gomes Yarns in Renfrew had no industrial or commercial profile.

It was a front from the beginning. They put the money into the thing and when we had a chance to save not all, but part of their hides, they extended a second mortgage and now have effectively managed to lose the whole thing.

In a small area like ours, this gets out. CBC television in Ottawa, the Renfrew Mercury and the local press have done their job and they have exposed this kind of procedure. But what it does, and rightfully does, is that it discredits the Ontario government and its Eastern Ontario Development Corp. as being a supporter of things which should have no support on the basis of what they have or have not done.

Then we have the other incident at the Eganville Creamery. I know hon. members here have probably tired of it—I know my friend from Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins), whose good wife is here tonight and I am happy to welcome her, is commenting upon the fact that we have the problem that we do at the Eganville Creamery. But there again what does the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. do? It turns around and in the first year of operation it gives to Ault Foods of Winchester the largest single disbursement that it chooses to give. Now I am prepared in an academic sense to accept that in part at any rate. By a conservative progressive stretch of my Liberal imagination, I am prepared to accept that, if only for debating purposes. They give \$1 million to Ault Foods of Winchester—this is the Eastern Ontario Development Corp.

The fact of the matter is shortly thereafter Ault Foods announces the purchase and takeover of the Eganville Creamery. The Eganville Creamery is in a town which has had an unending series of economic crises in the last five to 10 years. I know that the very illustrious and favourite son of Eganville, the present Ombudsman of Ontario, who subscribes to the Eganville Leader like many of us, can tell you that in a private kind of way. Eganville has had a rough time and one of the steady sources of financial and employment strength it did have was the locally-owned, or at least locally-operated, Eganville Creamery. So here given \$1 million, Ault Foods buys the Eganville Creamery and, lo and behold, it decides to close it down.

This is what this government and its Eastern Ontario Development Corp. is doing for the cultivation of jobs and agricultural interests in my particular county. Hansard should very well report "shame, shame," because shame there is and lots of it. Worse



still, the government goes to the people at the Pembroke Creamery and says: "Given the fact that we are going to be losing 34 jobs in Eganville"—34 jobs which Eganville just cannot afford to lose—"and given the fact that we now have almost 500 cream producers in the Renfrew county area who are really in serious trouble, will you, ladies and gentlemen of the Pembroke Creamery, whose primary interests are now in the dairy spread business, upgrade your facility and take that particular part of the operation over?"

[8:15]

The gentlemen at the Pembroke Creamery did that, and what do they find? They find that while the government of Ontario encouraged them to come to the government's assistance at their time of crisis and take the local supply, the government was in no way prepared to ensure that its good offices would be brought to bear to assist that Pembroke Creamery in getting at the local demand which was controlled by and large by the large chain stores, and into which this local industry could not make its way. Oh no. The government in those terms found it very difficult to consider co-operation and assistance, and only through the independent and individual initiative of the ownership of the Pembroke Creamery, together with some assistance from members of the opposition, has that problem been mitigated to some extent.

So there we see, in those two instances, some measure of the seriousness of this government with respect to the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. Who is it that qualifies for its help and assistance? And, secondarily, who is it in the agricultural community that this government is prepared to help and assist? How is it that this government can justify what it has done in support of Gomes Yarns which has gone up in smoke, very sadly? How is it that the hon. Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett) can justify that, explain that; not so much to me, because I am, in one way or another, less involved than those cream producers and those people in the area who are trying to get some assistance from the development Corp., who have a legitimate basis from which to operate, and who cannot get so much as a fair hearing from the Ontario Development Corp.? How then does this government, and any one of us as a member of government in politics in Ontario, go with good face and standing to these groups and say that the government and the province is,

in fact, serious about helping you in your particular area?

The whole question of roads, of course, begs what it is we're going to be getting out of our tourist economy. Quite simply, given the fact that the Pembroke-Deep River-Barry's Bay area is closer to Ottawa than to Toronto, one has to look at the transportation system which is presumably going to bring the tourist dollar and the tourist person into our particular area; and how this government expects to attract people into the Algonquin Park region from the Ottawa Valley side, given the present condition of Highway 41, for example, is quite beyond my humble imagination. No doubt, the hon. gentlemen opposite have some way of explaining it.

Then we have the Algonquin Park situation with respect to the local timber economy. We are presently finding ourselves in the early days of the actual operation of the Algonquin Forest Authority, and I know both labour and management in the particular area are expressing concern about what this forest authority is going to do and what it is going to mean with respect to the local and very tenuous, I might say, lumber economy. This afternoon it was my pleasure to meet once again with friends from the Algonquin Wildlands League. Theirs too is a concern, granted an antithetical one, to the lumbering interest, and we all admit that.

Politics being what it is, we must build a bridge and try to strike a compromise and a consensus that will allow for not only the continuance of economic interest in the Whitney and Deux Rivieres part of my riding, but that will also accommodate hon. gentlemen like the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) who may very well decide that he wants to come to my great riding and enjoy the summer holidays. I'm interested in accommodating that kind of interest on both sides. Indeed, I will accommodate the hon. gentleman from St. Andrew-St. Patrick, who did my Celtic race no little bit of pride the other day, I might say, in his eloquence on March 17.

**Mr. Nixon:** He is going on for some time. You won't get on tonight, Frank.

**Mr. Drea:** I'm not going on tonight.

**Mr. Conway:** We've got the concern there, we've got the real concern about the local lumber industry. I share that and I will admit—as the hon. member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski) and his sidekick from Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) will tell us—that my



family has been long representative of and active in the local lumber industry; and they have and they presently hold licences which go back prior to—

Mr. Nixon: Now you've got it, Frank.

Mr. Drea: I've been wondering.

Mr. Conway: —the establishment of the particular park. But I am coming here tonight, and I tell the hon. gentleman from Scarborough Centre that I'm quite proud of the fact that I do have connections with the local lumber industry—

Mr. Nixon: So are we all.

Mr. Conway: I am not afraid to admit that, and in personal terms I appreciate that there is to that extent some measure of conflict of interest, in my mind at any rate.

Interjection.

Mr. Nixon: Conflict, no.

Mr. Conway: But what I am interested in saying is that the other day I just happened by some of the Progressive Conservative election accounts.

Mr. Ruston: No.

Mr. Mancini: No.

An hon. member: Shame!

Mr. Conway: And interesting it was. I found something that made me think of speeches given and battles won or lost in the election campaign of—

Mr. Martel: They were the same ones; the Liberals were getting them from the same group.

An hon. member: Elie, give yourself a raise.

Mr. Conway: —of election battles won and some lost in September. At that time I took it as a matter of public interest and debate that the two appointments from the Renfrew county area to the Algonquin Forest Authority just happened to be—and I hope the hon. gentleman from Scarborough Centre is bearing with me—

Mr. Ruston: He's here anyway.

Mr. Conway: —that at that time I thought it important to highlight the fact that what we were trying to do in the Algonquin Forest Authority was get away from the politics of development, so magnificently explained

and expressed by Prof. Vivian Nelles in his famous book of the same title; a kind of development and a kind of politics that was to some extent or another, seamy a bit, questionable at least.

Mr. Nixon: Howard Ferguson you know, one of our boys.

Mr. Conway: We were trying to establish in the minds of the people of Renfrew county that at long last this government, in its enlightened despotism, had decided that they were going to break that tradition and move in the directions provided by the Algonquin Forest Authority, so what did they do? The first public gesture they make with respect to the Algonquin Forest Authority is to appoint two people from Renfrew county; fair enough. And who are they? Who, pray tell, would you think they would be?

Mr. Drea: Not Liberals.

Mr. Grossman: Two NDPers?

An hon. member: A defeated Tory?

Mr. Nixon: Would you believe John Roberts?

Mr. Moffatt: Your grandfather?

An hon. member: Not the member for Scarborough Centre, surely?

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: When they decided that the former member for London North, the former Premier of this province, was also in a conflict of interest in one way or another perhaps, with respect to the Algonquin Forest Authority, and when they decided that the member for Scarborough Centre clearly had intellectual pursuits that would take him otherwise and he would not therefore be available, they decided and they pursued the policy—

Mr. Drea: What was that?

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: Whom did they appoint?

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: Whom did they appoint? Well, they searched the 85,000 souls or thereabouts in Renfrew county and they came up with two people, I suppose by accident, and they just happened to be Progressive Conservatives serving on the executive of their respective associations.

Interjections.

**Mr. Nixon:** No! Shame! Incredible!

**Mr. Moffatt:** Sounds like the good old days.

**An hon. member:** Unbelievable!

**Mr. Conway:** I don't really know how that happened, but I thought, I am going to give this government a chance. Now clearly they will be appointed and they will—

Interjections.

**Mr. Drea:** What's that to do with me?

**Mr. Conway:** I must say that I am delighted that the hon. member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) has graced me with his presence. I trust that that's where it ends tonight.

Interjections.

**Mr. Conway:** I thought, though, that what these gentlemen would do was forsake their party's political connections and walk the mainstream of public purpose, as the hon. gentleman from Lambton (Mr. Henderson) knows so well, and forsake that—

Interjections.

**Mr. Ruston:** With his pork barrel.

**Mr. Conway:** —and forsake the lower road for the higher road. But no, no, they continued, and it just happened that some of those people continue to take a fairly active part in the politics of the Progressive Conservative Party in our particular area. It's not that they're not entitled to do so, and I want to be fair and reasonable about this. It's not so much what is done, as we all know, but it's a question of what is seen to be done, as the hon. gentleman from St. Patrick-St. Andrew, or whatever, knows so well with respect to Doctors Hospital.

**Mr. Davidson:** Oh, you're being too generous.

**Mr. Conway:** But we must get away from that kind of politics which appears to be party oriented.

**Mr. Davidson:** Is that not Liberal policy?

**Mr. Conway:** That's a matter for some discussion. But I would hope that the government party, and its fine and hon. members here present, would give the Algonquin Forest Authority a chance to work. I have been among its strongest opponents, because I'm not so sure that government-run log market-

ing agencies will be effective. I am willing to be convinced. It may be that they are, in fact, going to be a success in logs where they have not been, for example, in eggs.

I wish them well, but I would hope that the hon. gentlemen opposite will give the Algonquin Forest Authority a chance to see something more than the partisan light of day, that they will extend to each and every operator in the particular area a fair and equitable opportunity to participate so long as participation in lumbering in Algonquin Park is permitted by this assembly, that each and every operator in that particular area and indeed in the province is given an opportunity to so benefit.

One of the issues that has really been driven home to me in the last number of days particularly, because I have been meeting with officials in this particular area, is the state and quality of education in our particular county. I must admit that it has been a long, long time since I was in the school room. In my old age I reflect—

**An hon. member:** Oh, come on. Be serious.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** At least 1½ years. Six months?

**Mr. Conway:** Who told you it was June? You'd better check. As I reflect in my old age about where it is that education has come in our county and indeed in our province—

**Mr. Grossman:** You're proof of how good the system is.

**Mr. Moffatt:** That's a strange comment. I really don't understand that.

**Mr. Conway:** We have education systems in the province which have not—

Interjection.

**Mr. Conway:** Mr. Speaker, I would hope that you would intercede on my behalf to protect me from some of this rather sinister attack which will make me shudder for the rest of my days. Education in Renfrew county is an issue today such as has not been for some time, because the restraint programme in the Province of Ontario assumes in its basic way that each and every area and each and every school board has equal capacity to deal with the hardships and with the restraints that the government is prepared to dish out. This is simply not true, and nowhere is it more untrue than in the county of Renfrew, where we have, and I lament in having to admit this, an unacceptably high unemployment rate



and a county where the board of education and the educational system among other things are the second largest employer in that particular county.

I think that is important in more than a peripheral way, and I'm sure we'll all agree with that and support that, but not only are the educational and intellectual prospects of the generation to which I belong threatened, but there is the fact that we have got a very large employer besng threatened in a very fundamental way.

I implore this ministry and the education ministry in particular to extend special consideration to areas like my own, given the fact, for example, that we in Renfrew county have the lowest assessment per pupil in the Province of Ontario, and that, for example, on the basis of the restraint provramme outlined by the ministry the secondary school level is going to increase after the firing or the releasing of 12 per cent of the secondary school's teaching staff, and that's no small number I can tell you—55 of 438 teachers released is a tragic, tragic price to pay.

[8:30]

After that is taken into consideration, and after staff has been cut further by 10 or 12 per cent, and after the Renfrew County Board of Education—a board which I know well and a board which has been sincere and consistent and long standing in its efforts to restrict and to restrain in a sensible manner while at the same time trying to lend credibility to this ministry, which has for whatever reasons tried to say that it has made throughout the province an honest effort to provide the quality of education to all—after the Renfrew County Board of Education has worked hard and long in trying to accommodate that principle, now with an executive stroke of that ministerial pen, years of work have been summarily destroyed and it's not going to be easily rebuilt.

It's more than that. When the Champlain Vocational High School was established some years ago, one of the programmes—just to take an example—that was instituted at that time was a programme for registered nurses' assistants. In the city of Pembroke we have two 150-bed hospitals, or there were until the restraint programme came along. The hospitals are the third or fourth on the employment list there and an important aspect of the local economy.

**Mr. Ferrier:** How are the doctors getting along up there?

**Mr. Conway:** The registered nurses' programme was begun some years ago and

took into its enrolment 22 people who were processed over four years, all of whom got jobs and all of whom were profitably employed locally or nearby. We have an example of how vocational education really meant something. In the local school situation, in accordance with what John Diefenbaker meant when he provided those grants a way back, it was working and it was seen to be working.

Now the administration of the Renfrew County Board of Education tell me that that is a programme that simply has to be cut away. I hope you understand what that means. It means for 22 people, and 22 people on a yearly basis, the economic and job prospects of Renfrew county have to that extent betrayed them. It will behove this government and behove it very much to take a long, serious second look at this kind of situation and perhaps to use something like a grant-weighting factor to allow for the special consideration which is what they deserve and expect if they are to be in the mainstream of education.

We need it as much, and probably more, as many of those areas in the more affluent parts, economically at any rate, but not spiritually—I certainly will never concede that—of the Province of Ontario. It's important that the restraint programme at some point in time is reduced to those kinds of fundamentals and those kinds of very human and basic considerations. It's extremely fashionable, as the hon. and eloquent member for Oshawa (Mr. Breauth) so articulately explained earlier, that to have restraint in education may sell politically but it certainly doesn't wash in an economic kind of way.

It's important for this government to realize what the restraint programme will mean in the county of Renfrew. It certainly disturbs me that the government didn't consider it worth its time to respond to the brief presented to the minister on Feb. 23 in Ottawa which expressed these concerns in a very frontal and basic kind of way. The fact that the government has taken six or seven weeks now to display its indifference to the very seriousness of the need has left the people in the education process in Renfrew county certainly reluctant to believe that this government is serious and that the Premier (Mr. Davis) could be serious when he in his altruistic kind of way gets up and tries to assure us, as he did this afternoon, that really we have a fine and equitable system on all sides, because students, staff, teachers and parents in the county of Renfrew understand what is happening.



I understand the politics of restraint in education and it concerns me a great deal that there are those in politics who will take the opportunity to take a system which has been controversial, and well it might have been. We have a provincial debt today of which there has been some talk, and the education spending has been to some serious extent contributory to that. So controversial it certainly has been and understandably so, but for the Premier to get up in his self-assuring way and tell us something that we in Renfrew county know to be transparently untrue, we consider it to be something more than an insult, and something less than what we want and consider that we deserve.

The hon. gentleman from over there somewhere mentioned earlier, not too, too long ago, something about health care. As the member for Renfrew North I find myself involved in a hospital cutback programme. I find myself involved in a situation where the medical community in my fair county is undergoing some measure of disagreement. We all know, as we see from the very outstanding, if difficult at times, acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson), that the medical community can be a pretty intransigent lot. Sometimes I think they are more than intransigent, that they are unfeeling and dictatorial. Those are just some scattered thoughts that I confide in my diary.

**Mr. Davidson:** Not your crystal ball?

**Mr. Grossman:** It will never sell.

**Mr. Moffatt:** I am sure the rest of this story gets more interesting.

**Mr. Conway:** And so I stroll through my political life—

**Mr. Davidson:** Do you also wander Jarvis St.?

**Mr. Conway:** That, Mr. Speaker, was an aspersion upon my otherwise outstanding character and I am sure the hon. gentleman from Cambridge meant no such thing.

**Mr. Martel:** He did.

**Mr. Davidson:** I withdraw it.

**Mr. Conway:** Elie, Elie, why have you forsaken me? But there is a problem, and I am certainly not going to hide from that problem. It is for all of us in government and in politics—

Interjections.

**Mr. Conway:** There is a problem and I am not going to deny the problem. What

has to be done with that problem, clearly but most difficultly, as in all politics is to find some measure of compromise, some measure of common ground. In the beginning it was a dispute which had right and wrong, which had personality confrontations as we all expect, not only in medicine but sometimes, my heavens, in politics, there are personality clashes and all that. And it has made the debate on health care a serious issue, as we all know, in the Province of Ontario today, very difficult in that particular county, and my sympathies are with them not only my group and the group right but certainly the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) and his acting counterpart.

**Mr. Grossman:** And St. Andrew-St. Patrick, how about me, Sean?

**Mr. Conway:** Well, I certainly have no little bit of sympathy for the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

In the city of Pembroke we certainly have a cutback programme. As I noticed today, the people from the Pembroke Civic Hospital are disturbed about the fact that they have been chosen, for no apparent reason, as the victims of the serious cutback in beds. Jim Roberts, the administrator, has a good point when he asks me to ask this House and the government a question that has been asked and re-asked and hopefully will be continued in its asking: What are the criteria for these cutbacks? Why, for example, 18 beds? On what rationale? Why, for example, were the Renfrew and Arnprior hospitals cut back in a similar way? All we are asking is for some measure of answers.

We have problems that extend beyond the city of Pembroke. In one of the fairest and finest communities in my electoral district, the fair town of Deep River, they have built a new hospital, much to their credit. They have built and opened the new hospital on the understanding—in fact, it was on the urging of the government of Ontario, the Ministry of Health—that there had to be an ambulance service. I was at an ambulance service meeting in Deep River last Tuesday, and I was happy to be with my hon. friends from the two other political groupings who were there. They deserved to be there, and I hope they continue to be there. Sometimes one is not too sure where politicians in some parties might stand on this particular issue in this particular community, but it's important that they be consulted because, as the hon. gentleman from Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor) might tell us, politics is a very fleet-



ing business. When you win by 36 per cent of the vote, you don't want to be too cocky about it all. You want to be participatory about your approach, because we in this great party, as the hon. member for Lakeshore well knows, are the sole authors of participatory democracy and not the kind of socialistic authoritarianism for which they are so terribly famous.

**Mr. Lawlor:** Still, you want everyone on the public payroll.

**Mr. Davidson:** I would never have thought that of you.

**Mr. Conway:** As I say, it was wise and it was fitting that those people be there, but the fact of the matter is that 18 months or two years after the fact, with a new hospital open and with an ambulance bay and garage there, there is no ambulance there. The question that the people of Deep River, Chalk River, Rolphoton and Stonecliffe so rightly ask is, "Where is the promise?" Surely this government, this outstanding group of individuals, which in 1971 was doing things for people and in 1975 was the only group that was doing this, that and all the rest of it while the other parties were made up of shirkers—surely this is the party that experiences no gaps between promise and performance.

**Mr. Martel:** Credibility.

**Mr. Conway:** Indeed, their credibility seems to be very seriously undermined in all of this. I'm willing to give them the benefit of the doubt—

**Mr. Lawlor:** What doubt?

**Mr. Conway:** —but if there is not some move in the next little while on behalf of an ambulance for that particular area—

**Mr. Drea:** You're going to call an election.

**Mr. Angus:** He won't; he won't.

**Mr. Conway:** —and there should very well be some serious discussion, if nothing else—

Interjections.

**Mr. Conway:** There should be some serious discussion, if nothing else, about this lack of performance. I sympathize with the Deep River and District Hospital Board, and I presume they know what they're talking about.

**Mr. Hodgson:** You and your leader don't know what you are talking about.

**Mr. Conway:** Indeed, they find themselves in a locale which is far more explained and far more understandable, and there's a substantial enough gap between the Deep River and District Hospital Board and its particular situation than there might be between North York and Nanticoke.

Those are the kind of things, those are the sorts of gaps about which we must talk with respect to this government. I think that when the hon. member suggests that they don't know what they are talking about, he perhaps should investigate, because they have a series of proposals and letters and inquiries which I think very substantially support their case.

The time has come for this government to either renege on its promise or live up to its promise. Because, when all else is said and done, that is an area which has seen a number of deaths which, according to my acquaintances in the ambulance service industry there, clearly indicates that deaths and serious injuries are to some extent attributable to that lack of service. Therefore, I do hope that the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson), when she receives the report which is presently being prepared, gives fair and due consideration to the very serious request put there by them. Well I'm getting on and I remember the distinction—

**Mr. Mackenzie:** How long were you going to speak?

**Mr. Conway:** In the county of Renfrew right now there is something called a restructuring study going on and, given the fact that I've been around for so long and I know the municipal political situation so well, I'd like to bring to this assembly's attention what it is that the government of Ontario portends or is seeming to portend in the local restructuring committee.

**Mr. Davidson:** They are going to regionalize you.

**Mr. Conway:** There has been some talk about that, but rumour has it that they are lacking a good partisan appointment for the regional chairmanship. I hear they are looking at Sudbury—

**Mr. Haggerty:** How many Tory appointments are on it?

**Mr. Conway:** —and that may deter them.

**Mr. Grossman:** Drake Personnel is hiring them.

[8:45]

**Mr. Conway:** I think it important, Mr. Speaker, that we keep this above the personality level because, lo and behold, we could get ourselves into some serious difficulty.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** If we weren't already.

**Mr. Conway:** But the fact of the matter is—

**Mr. Davidson:** Let's just say we'd like some information on the appointment, let's put it that way.

**Mr. Conway:** —there is a concern on the part of the people of the county of Renfrew and the city of Pembroke about what it is this government, through the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Nincompoopery or whatever that title is, there is a concern—

Interjection.

**Mr. Conway:** There is a concern that we are going to get the same kind of insensitive approach, if not result, that has been the diet of so many other parts of Ontario, some of which has been referred to, in an aside at any rate, by my hon. colleague from Cambridge.

Interjection.

**Mr. Conway:** But there is a concern there and it's one I hope that this ministry takes into full consideration, that the regional government bogey is clearly one that hangs over this entire deliberation. To this date I have not seen a great deal of endeavour on the part of those involved to allay those suspicions and it's important that those suspicions be allayed. It's important that the local municipality, certainly in the county of Renfrew and the city of Pembroke, be given ample time, which we suspect they may not get, to weigh the projects and the proposals and the alternatives fully and adequately and that they are given freely the choice to make in terms of where it is they're going to go.

**Mr. Davidson:** Which would be more than anyone else has.

Interjection.

**Mr. Conway:** And then we have justice, and again I come back to my predecessor from Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) who spoke just moments ago, and he talked about the Solicitor-Generalship and he talked about a number of things. He talked about one issue that I found most interesting. He used the expression law and order, and as a—

**Mr. Angus:** Mike's speech?

**Mr. Conway:** —private citizen and as someone now involved in politics, I do feel that that is a particular handle that politicians use. Some Conservative politicians, if I might be allowed to interject that bit of partisan name-calling there, some Conservative politicians in my area made no little bit of the fact that what we needed, by God, was law and order.

I shudder when I hear that because I can take refuge in the very inspired comment, I think, of a very great Canadian and a Conservative and an Irishman, which is just incidental. Sen. Gratt O'Leary, whose politics are well known, said in a discussion in that Valhalla of Canadian socialism, the Senate of Canada, he said—

Interjections.

**Mr. Conway:** If it's good enough for one of the authors of the CCF manifesto, it's good enough for me. But he said in the Senate of Canada recently that law and order was the war cry, the battle cry, the political cry of every pirate in history. And I think that lays the issue to rest. I think that it speaks well of something that is far deeper than a mere platitude which is booted around by politicians—politicians of all stripes at some times, but regrettably at times in the recent past by members of this ministry and the back benches—I think with a degree of recklessness which we would come not to expect.

But in the Renfrew county area, we are famous again for our legal system. For those of you who share with me a personal recollection of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s—and the 1960s to some extent—

**Mr. Angus:** Have you been hallucinating again?

**Mr. Conway:** Well, when I look over here I think it must be an hallucination. At least I hope and I pray sometimes that it is an hallucination.

**Mr. Davidson:** Look over my head when you say that.

**Mr. Conway:** Mr. Speaker, it's important for us in our area to remember that the law of Killaloe as it's happily, jokingly referred to—I don't know how many of you are aware of that appellation—I know the good Ombudsman is aware of that and we have talked at some considerable length about the famous law of Killaloe. And you know it is picturesque and it's kind of interesting; it's got an academic and historical kind of flavour about it and it still exists.



**Mr. Mackenzie:** Good fishing too.

**Mr. Conway:** What the law of Killaloe concerns itself with in some way or another is the fact that we have a process of law in our particular county which is seriously compromised, and I think in a negative way, by the fact that we don't have facilities—and I know there are most parts of Ontario lacking in the full facilities that they might want, but our situation there is absolutely awful. The judges will tell you, the lawyers will tell you, I'll tell you, and the citizenry involved will tell you. I think rather than making bellicose statements about law and order, this government might take time to visit on every second Wednesday, to see the kinds of conditions which our provincial court judge—who is presently ailing in the hospital and who I hope certainly will be back with us shortly—has to work in, because they are absolutely incredible. The law community is still there, it is still there in all those rather tragic circumstances, that there is not so much as equality before the law in this province, when you take that kind of a bad system into consideration.

I think that we have got to be appreciative of that fact and we have got to move as quickly as restraint will allow to redress that situation. I know a visiting Toronto family court judge referred to the family court situation in the county of Renfrew as absolutely appalling and appalling it is. I hope too, that the hon. Attorney General (Mr. McMurry) considers it worth his time and desires to consider something there, because he has in his hands a very indepth statement from the provincial judge in the county of Renfrew, a document which, among other things, cries out for help that has been so long coming.

I hope that this government becomes less worried about putting its friends in the local registry office and more worried about being fair to the judge and giving the poor man a chance to operate in the way in which he can and he wants. That's law and order. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, that's the kind of law and order which I am sure we all want to see. That's the kind of law and order that is more than mere platitude, and I hope and I pray that the judge and the system are given a fair chance to do a job as important, if not more important, than any other that we have.

There was, for example, the story not so long ago in the Renfrew Mercury about the fact that there was "no room in the dock." The facilities were so bad that they didn't

have room to conduct the business of the day. There are times when, for example, the docket has got something like 85 cases. How then in this day and age are we expected and can we expect any man to continue to survive under such conditions? What he was doing is clearly herculean. No successor, I suspect, will be able to follow in that man's footsteps.

I hope that the old patronage politics finds its way out of that appointment structure and finds its way into a clean and a constructive approach to providing the people and the staff—

**Mr. Mancini:** Frank knows all about that, he's very interested.

**Mr. Conway:** —for a basic system, which at this point in time, is seriously compromised.

We come now to the hon. Prince Edward from Lennox, or the hon. Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) who has, in his own inimitable way, decided that he too is going to show the members of this House and the people of this province what real restraint means. I know the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell) certainly feels very strongly about that and I have come, in my tender age, to share her sensitivities for this kind of approach from this particular minister. Indeed, that is one of the anomalous conditions of minority government that future historians will no doubt comment upon—that in the year 1976, with all its bicentennialism and attendant anniversarial tones, we would end up with something like Prince Edward of Lennox in something like family and community services or Community and Social Services or whatever.

It takes no small stretch of the imagination to follow the prime ministerial logic that will allow that to obtain, seconded, I suppose, only by the appointment of the hon. gentleman from Hamilton Mountain (Mr. J. R. Smith) to the sensitive position of Correctional Services. Obviously, that gentleman has a rock upon which he is going to build more than his church.

**Mr. Mancini:** Frank is going to straighten him out.

**Mr. Conway:** It is important to understand again what that 5.5 ceiling or guideline means to Raymond Gray and his staff at the Renfrew County Family and Children's Services. I spent three hours with them on the morning of Feb. 9 and at that time and since they have been doing all they can in a public way to draw clearly to the people of our county who for a variety of reasons may not be attuned



to the specifics of restraint in that particular area what it is they need and what it means to have a whole range of responsibility, as we all know, under the Child Welfare Act, to have that whole range of responsibility and yet, on the other hand, to have no money with which to perform the task designated to you and for you.

Given the fact that the judge has already commented upon how badly it is that we need a family court judge, it is absolutely unacceptable again that the hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Taylor) says to us that there will be no consideration for the fact that we simply are in a position of not being able to afford the restraint as presented to us, I want to take this opportunity to put on the record without equivocation and delay the fact that the Renfrew County Family and Children's Services are absolutely unhappy. They have made every effort. They have done more than their share to popularize their position, to acclimatize the public in our particular area as to what it is they do and how it is they are not going to be able to perform as they are legally bound to under the restraint programme of the hon. minister.

Indeed it is interesting that the hon gentleman from Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) should find in such an illustrious journal as the Napanee Beaver occasion to support that position. It goes to show you, I think, Mr. Speaker, that there is a range of opinion and consensus forming here which is certainly most unusual.

I see that I am getting on to the hour and I do want to take just a few more moments to deliberate upon things that are less parochial and more general in their dimension and import, and I know that the House will bear with me for these last few moments. I see the hon. gentleman from Scarborough Centre bearing with me in a magnanimous manner and indeed he must surely set the example.

I found it interesting that in all of these restraint programmes and much of what I have tried to put before this august assembly this evening and certainly late this afternoon is the fact of what is being threatened in all of this, as the hon. member for Durham East (Mr. Moffatt) will well know. To close hospitals, to cut back in schools and to allow the Prince Edward of Lennox to run around putting a lid on things on the 5.5 white charger as the modern-day Sir Galahad are particulars about which we can complain, we can debate and we can do all the rest of it.

Clearly it is more difficult, as we all know, and certainly this is the position in

which any loyal opposition must surely find itself, ultimately to decide in its own way how it is it might respond in policy alternatives. But they leave us in a general philosophical kind of way—certainly for those of us in the non-metropolitan parts of Ontario—one standard objection to the meanderings in the name and guise of restraint followed and supported by this particular government, and it is this: They tell Raymond Gray and his people of Renfrew County Family and Children's Services that they must operate on the 5.5 guideline. You go to Victoria-Haliburton and say to the people in Bobcaygeon you have lost your hospital and you go to the Renfrew County Board of Education and you tell them that your assessment picture really doesn't count for very much. You are saying something of more than just a particular nature. What you are saying and what you are actively causing to happen is something which undermines one of the basic principles of a broad philosophical stream to which nominally at least I belong as a Liberal, and it is more than a nominal relationship I can assure you.

[9:00]

An hon. member: That would raise doubt occasionally though.

Mr. Conway: I'm sure the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Ferrier), together with his colleague the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor), will bring my intellectual baggage into the port of my train of thought. But the import of all of this, must surely be that what we are seeing under those conditions is that we are tearing at parts of Ontario, those parts of Ontario which are our hinterland as opposed to a metropolis; is that we are not going to have, or be free to have at any rate, the equality of opportunity which is clearly the prerogative of those who live in downtown, city Ontario. That when we get out into Huron-Middlesex and you tell the people of Clinton and when you tell the people of Goderich their hospitals are gone, you are telling those people, to some extent—and you're telling them in an irrevocable and in a very simple way—that we as a government are at least going to compromise the proposition that they, like all citizens of this province, are entitled to equality of opportunity. Even along the neglected corners of Renfrew county in eastern Ontario they know what it means.

We've had the Tories; By God they've had us, I think!



**An hon. member:** Any response—on the government side?

**Mr. Conway:** That is the import of all of this; that it's the equality of opportunity that's being taken away, that we're not going to equalize the starting gate. If you live in Chesley, if you live in Durham, if you live in Bobcaygeon, if you live in Clinton, if you live in Goderich; you are not going to have equal opportunity to the extent of those people who reside in this building, who as an example are so close to the hospitals that we see before us.

I know there are qualifications to this basic position. But it seems that in the way of public policy we must be sensitive about this perception, and we must be ever vigilant to ensure that the people of this province see that they are, each and every one of them, entitled to the equality of opportunity which a modern, democratic society of whatever stripe—left, right, centre—we might care to call it, is expected to provide and I say must surely provide. That's the objection.

In a long-winded kind of address, I hope that if I leave nothing for your serious and deliberate consideration, Mr. Speaker—and I know coming as you do from an area which is less than metropolitan you can appreciate what it means in terms of the classic dichotomy between hinterland and metropolitan centre—I make this one point. That's what we're telling the good people of Bobcaygeon and Durham and Goderich. That's something that really concerns me, as a Liberal, and as a member of a government situation and to that extent accountable. I hope that some measure of consideration is given to that.

Briefly on the restraint programme again and its effects—again on much of what has been said before. The fact is—and I was impressed by what the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) was saying about restraint—I just happened to be reading some of the local press and I was thinking "restraint, restraint". The catchword of Ontario provincial politics in this day and age must surely be restraint. Then I wondered, and I know the good member for Yorkview (Mr. Young)—together with the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr) and the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. Spence) and many of my more senior colleagues—would certainly share with me a feeling of restraint when they look at the government's figures as expressed to and by the election expenses commission; because if ever there were a model of restraint, it was surely the level of expendi-

tures offered to the public of Ontario by this restraint-oriented party, which just happened to spend \$60,000 trying to win Carleton East; which just happened to spend twice as much as anybody in electing the hon. member, pray tell, for Toronto St. David (Mrs. Scrivener). Those figures really indicated restraint. I was impressed; and I continue to be impressed.

I look at Hanover hospital and I say yes, I think I know one of the political guiding spirits behind that and I am impressed. I go into the hallowed halls of Queen's Park and I find the hon. retired member for Welland, Mr. Morningstar, and his sometime colleague from Toronto Dovercourt (Mr. G. Nixon), and sometimes spotted the member for—well, I forget the other one, but at any rate at least those two—and I am impressed too by the restraint that this government is showing in the post-election period of just happening to find office space for this sort of thing.

I read in the press, particularly the northern press, on the weekend that the hon. minister and member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier) has been applying his own kind of restraint to the regulations procedure followed by members of the Crown, given those discretionary powers that they really don't want, and find themselves having to exercise it, at difficult and inappropriate times.

I am impressed by that restraint. You know, I really am. I regret to inform this House that the kind of impression I get is one that where present politics is concerned, this wretched lot of souls, in a general party kind of way, care to be profligate in no mean way. And I know that the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson), as a member of Her Honour's ministry, will make sure that that kind of stuff ceases and desists as of Sept. 19, 1975, and I put my entire faith in him as a public watchdog of party affairs.

**Mr. Burr:** He wasn't listening, say it again.

**Mr. Conway:** I will go on to two general areas that I want to conclude with. One of them has to do with what I call the politics of the anti-inflation programme, and it's an interesting set of politics. It's a set of politics which has given my friends, my phoney, dear and close friends to my right—my very close friend from Cambridge (Mr. Davidson) and his clan here—I know that that's the politics of the anti-inflation programme. Load that poor, unsuspecting group on to the rocks of political compromise.

**Interjections.**

**Mr. Conway:** Pray tell in December, when given the fact there was something called a want of confidence in Her Honour's ministry.

**Mr. Angus:** There was no confidence.

**Mr. Conway:** They decided as their full intelligence, guided no doubt by the hon. members for Riverdale and Toronto Lakeshore and all the rest, they decided, as I can understand they might, to forsake some of their friends who—

Interjection.

**Mr. Conway:** —had been almost irreverent in what they had said about the anti-inflation programme.

Interjection.

**Mr. Gaunt:** Ask Monty, he will tell you.

**Mr. Conway:** They have said, as Joe Morris said in a very eloquent way on "Question Period" some months ago, that time will allow us to vote on the basis of those price controls. Joe Morris is a very highly respected member of a very highly respected sector of our society. But there is a difficulty there, as this party found, and I can appreciate that; it's no easy thing this, deciding on whether or not one wants an election, and I myself have found, in times not so very far distant—

**Mr. Davidson:** Particularly an election.

**Mr. Conway:** —that that decision can be highly troublesome—

**Mr. Angus:** How far distant?

**Mr. Conway:** —can be troublesome. But the politics of the anti-inflation programme are interesting, and they are interesting in a general kind of way for this reason. To the extent that the Progressive Conservative Party in government had an issue in the 1975 provincial election campaign, it was this—and I think hon. members present would agree with me when I say that we were told, for whatever good or bad reason, that the one particular claim that the Progressive Conservative government of Ontario had on our good suffrages was the fact that they were out with a pack of rascals—and don't we know it—in Ottawa—

**Hon. Mr. Henderson:** You are right. Right on.

**Mr. Drea:** Right on.

**Mr. Conway:** —mismanaging, as the hon. member for Lambton would happily tell us,

in the most irresponsible way the affairs of this great Dominion. And there is no doubt about that. All the advertising said that. And you know I am a man of Christian breadth and I accept these deeds of the world and of the province in the very Christian way in which they were intended.

But it is interesting that the government party which said that the one and only reason—the prime reason at any rate—for the provincial support of their incumbency was this no-good outfit in Ottawa, what do they do when they get in power in a minority situation but a few days later, in one of the most unprecedented and interesting political gestures ever taken by the Province of Ontario Progressive Conservative Party? That's interesting too.

The Hon. William Grenville Davis, as first minister of Her Honour's government, said to the federal government that he had just spent six weeks disclaiming and discrediting and condemning, "Gentlemen, you incompetent buffoons, here, take it. Take our provincial sector," at a time when we all agree that the situations economic are more critical and more immediate than ever before. You will talk about logic, as the good member for Lambton will well know. That was some turnaround. To say on the one hand that this government is incompetent and then a few days later to say, "Ladies and gentlemen of this House and of this province, we will happily, in these times of great difficulty and economic distress, give to that no-good government a whole provincial sector."

**Mr. Swart:** Sounds like the Liberals in the Throne Speech in Ontario.

**Mr. Conway:** I think it was interesting and I know the hon. members opposite share with me what appears to be some measure of illogic if nothing else, and I think it interesting too to see that the argument—and it's important from just an argument's point of view—to see how it was that the government justified this. The hon. Premier stood up and he said, for good reason, that the prime concern, and the one outstanding cause and the one reason for doing what he had done, was that the time had come for this province to take not a parochial and not a provincial but, most importantly, to take a national view of the situation.

That's interesting because it is an absolutely impossible position, and the impossibility of that position was underscored and underlined and driven home by the hon. member, the Don Juan from Don Mills, the



Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell), who told us but a few weeks later at the National Energy Conference in Ottawa that he will not tolerate Peter "the Red" Lougheed and his red Tories in Alberta. They're not going to take us to the energy cleaners. No sir. We are a provincial Conservative government that is sensitive to our particular constituency. There it is. There is a time in a very similar situation to be national, because as we all know, so much of the impending inflation problem is one of energy. But what happened?

**Hon. Mr. Henderson:** Now he is acting like Mitch but he speaks like David Lewis. Now he is waving his hands like David Lewis used to.

**Mr. Mancini:** He is pretending to give out cheques.

**Mr. Conway:** There is in that, to me at any rate, a certain transparency which I'm sure even the hon. member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) could detect. We cannot in this province, in this social province, in a province which we all know in a historic sense has been more central than its geography, have on the one hand the Premier stand up and say, "No, we're going to take the anti-inflation problem in its totality and we're going to be national about it and so, therefore, we're going to give all that we can give and we're going to give it to the federal government." Fair enough, fair enough.

What happens? When he takes a serious component of that, he decides, through the illustrious member for Don Mills, they simply cannot do it. Why? Because when the nuts and bolts are looked at, Ontario is, in the energy situation, clearly the largest consuming province and constituency that there is, and it's not in his or in my best interests to take a national view of the energy situation, because it is going to hurt, because it just won't hold water, to turn a phrase.

[9:15]

That brings me to that essential component—that the Province of Ontario is a province like none other. Since the very beginning this province has, in this Dominion, exercised a degree of influence and control unmatched by any other, and most certainly unmatched by any other province in a modern day. We've got to know that, and in the academic community, without wanting to be pedantic, it refers to a tradition developed by the first Liberal Premier of this province and followed by every Premier, including the Premier of the Farmer-Labour government

of 1919-1923. It became known as the Mowat heritage in federal-provincial regulations. What it said basically was that in matters of economic concern, this province may as well recognize that it is the business of the government and the ministry to protect the economic jurisdiction and to fully guard and fully exercise those responsibilities.

Nobody, not so much as fine men like Howard Ferguson, E. C. Drury or any of them, ever abdicated responsibility in a fashion like this particular government. That's important. It's impossible, as the Minister of Energy indicated only a short while ago, because we are the central province. In economic terms we are more central, and we are more central in geography. And I think it is important for that reason.

To conclude this short address, this most humble address, this most quiet address—

**Mr. Bain:** This most redundant address.

**Mr. Conway:** Such are the vagaries of party politics. I want to conclude on a note of some seriousness—

**An hon. member:** Conclude?

**Mr. McClellan:** Your conclusion is about half an hour on.

**Mr. Conway:**—and it is one which refers to what I think we could generally call a national question. It has been referred to in this House by more than a few people, and certainly it reflects a very deep feeling of more than disgust—of tragedy that I felt in the last provincial election campaign. It relates to a national question. The Premier was the one who really made me think more deeply about this. He's a man of very instructional tendencies.

I remember well his reply to the Speech from the Throne in December. At that time he was reflecting upon the quality of campaigning in September, 1975. He stood there, in his unique way, and he referred to members opposite—to some more particularly than to others. I thought I detected in that inscrutable personality of his, a sense of deep hurt in the kind of campaign run by certain groups and certain individuals in the last election. To that extent, I agreed with him in that principle, because I was in eastern Ontario and I watched the campaign develop. I saw one of the sorriest and most pathetic demonstrations on the part of two, and possibly three, members of the government caucus then and now. It's interesting in light of what this Premier has said about wanting to be national. I refer to comments made



by the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Handleman) and the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Morrow), who regrettably are not with us today.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a feeling of deep sadness that I reflect at this time, as others have earlier, on the quality of campaign that they ran. To say that it was low and callous and base and disgusting, I think, from my point of view, would be to misrepresent it in a positive kind of way. Those two members, together with others in the caucus, were crusading around eastern Ontario and they were focusing public attention on the fact that there was a Liberal Party in Ontario that quite obviously, by nomenclature at least, was associated with the federal government party.

The hon. member for Carleton and his sidekick from Ottawa West introduced, I suspect conspicuously and very consciously, the French question. They introduced, and they certainly seemed to introduce that famous Ontario expression; and you only have to read the advertising of at least the member for Ottawa West to understand what they were doing. I can stand here as a student of Canadian history, if not as a long participant of same, and say that that is an absolutely unacceptable kind of campaign. I don't want to sit here—

Interjection.

Mr. Conway: —and I'm not here to tell you, Mr. Speaker, or members of all parties in this House that I am some Johnny-come-lately purist in politics in Ontario. That is not true. Despite what my friends in the democratic left might tell you, I do have my imperfections. But I think it absolutely important that we subscribe to the Premier of Ontario's basic feeling that there are times when it is necessary to be national because we are Ontario and we are the central province.

What we do in energy, what we do in the inflation situation in general is absolutely important and central and directing. But between the needs of the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Ontario there is a historic line of division and we all know it because we all live with it. When I say "we", I speak at least of those of my colleagues in all parties in eastern Ontario who live in the shadow of the Province of Quebec and who live happily with those Franco-Ontarians who vote and who live with us.

So it is that I consider it indeed tragic that members of a government party, mem-

bers of the Progressive Conservative Party, a party which, given the fact that it has had its times of difficulty, has in its origins and in its career a very marked success, at least in the early stages, in building a compromise along the line of cleavage which is most difficult and which is most destructive in this country and in this province, that members of that party—without being cliché-ish—of the party of Macdonald and members of the party of John Robarts could feel themselves comfortable with the campaign which said that one of the reasons you should not vote for another party is that they are the party of rampaging bilingualism, that you've got a Liberal government in Ottawa and you've got a Liberal government in Quebec City of all things, so do we want and can we afford in social terms a Liberal government in Toronto?

You are part of that and I can appreciate that and I want to be serious for a brief moment, because if this country of ours is anything, it is exceptionally frail and fragile and the history of this country and of this province, if it does anything at all, tells us that it is an uneasy alliance, a most difficult and a tenuous connection. We as party politicians have got to understand that.

Mr. Renwick: You're not suggesting we want a Liberal government in all those places, are you?

Mr. Conway: I am saying that it saddens me that members of a government party in eastern Ontario in 1975 could find themselves comfortable with that kind of calculated campaign directed at an undermining of that uneasy compromise in a province which continues to wrestle with that uneasy alliance, at least in eastern Ontario. If I thought that it just ended there, I would leave it there but those ads were appearing in the Ottawa Valley press in August and September.

Do you know what was appearing a few weeks later in the one daily paper in the county of Renfrew and was probably the most talked about advertisement in the paper? I took the issue of Monday, Dec. 15, 1975, just as an example. It is a small ad that ran for a number of days that said nothing more and nothing less than "Keep Ontario English." That's the corollary; that's the product of that kind of campaign—not wholly and I don't suggest entirely at all, but those gentlemen from Carleton and Ottawa West, as members of a provincial assembly, and more particularly those who are expected to lead and to take a responsible position in the public



affairs of eastern Ontario, have got to accept their measure of responsibility, because they, by their actions, clearly contradicted all that the Premier of this province (Mr. Davis) intended all of us to be and to do in our national contribution. I hope that sometimes, if not already, he finds it in the orbit of his time and patience to draw that at least to the private attention of those people involved.

It's immaterial whether I survive another election or whether I go on and continue to represent my riding. There are issues of transcendent importance, and they may appear to be ethereal and ephemeral and less than substantial, and I will grant support to those who feel that way when, in my province and in my county, I have to pick up a paper and read an ad which says: "Keep Ontario English." If that kind of sentiment is allowed to continue and if there is any measure of cultivation on behalf of government members—many of whom are Franco-Ontarians—if that has to continue then I, like the Rt. Hon. John George Diefenbaker, fear for the future of my country.

**Mr. Gregory:** Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege for me once again to address myself to the Speech from the Throne.

I must admit that I rise in all humility at this time. I don't think I've ever heard a better impersonation of the leader of the official opposition (Mr. Lewis) than I just heard. I can only think that I somewhat yearn for my lost youth. I think it must be marvellous, at such a young age, to have fallen so deliciously and passionately in love with one's own voice. I congratulate the member. I am glad that he cut his remarks short. I'm certainly glad he cut his remarks short because otherwise none of us would have got on tonight. Thank you.

**Mr. Grossman:** Is the member for Renfrew North flattered?

**Mr. Kennedy:** It ends there.

**Mr. Drea:** His maiden speech.

**Mr. Gregory:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you again on the fair and impartial way in which you conduct the affairs of this legislative assembly. While I've only been a member for a very short time, since last September—as has the previous speaker, and my associate—I have one concern and one only regarding the Legislature, and that is, the access of people to the floor of the Legislature. I would request, if it is at all possible, that you instruct the staff to be more vigilant about who enters and who

does not enter this Legislature. By stating my concern in this fashion I do not want to be overly alarmist—

**Mr. Foulds:** Some carry brown paper bags.

**Mr. Gregory:** Some are disappointed leadership candidates too.

By stating my concern in this fashion, I don't want to be overly alarmist, but I think it's important that the security staff be more aware as to who does enter the floor of this Legislature. It would be better to be safe than to be sorry if any particular unfortunate event should occur.

What concerns me most about the addresses which I have heard to date is the highly irresponsible and casual manner of the remarks of the leader of the official opposition, and specifically the way in which the leader of the official opposition marshalled his facts regarding this government's efforts to restrain government spending. I find his criticisms utterly stupendous, excessive distortions of reality, or partial exaggerations of the real situation.

He describes our restraint attempts in the closing of community hospitals or on the more efficient use of welfare funds as insensitive and irrational. These same terms could be applied to the very criticisms the hon. member is making on these and other issues. He acts like a fellow who uses buckshot to kill pigeons. If you spray the whole barn with sufficient buckshot you are certain to hit something or other. It doesn't matter what you hit, as long as you hit something.  
[9:30]

**Mr. Philip:** You won't hit a farmer—they are all going out of business.

**Mr. Gregory:** The word restraint is a word that simply does not appear in the vocabulary of the NDP leader or any of his colleagues. They just don't know what it means. Never for a moment does he consider whether the public sector can do the job better than the private sector or vice versa.

Never for a moment does he think about the impact of government spending on the pocketbooks of the taxpayers.

**An hon. member:** Right on; right on.

**Mr. Gregory:** Never for a moment does he think through the consequences of assuming that the bureaucracy can spend the tax dollar more wisely and efficiently than the ordinary individual. Never for a moment does he examine the consequences of building up the

government sector at the expense of the private sector—

**Mr. Samis:** That's gobbledygook and you know it.

**Mr. Gregory:** —and in turn creating a set of programmes with supporting clientele, both of which develop a built-in dependency which can never be affected, impinged upon or re-examined in any fashion. If you examine such consequences, you're immediately branded as a child-exploiter, as anti-human in the treatment of social assistance recipients.

Take, for example, the leader of the official opposition's remarks regarding the administration of welfare in Ontario. On the one hand, he accuses this government of forcing mothers back into the labour force and by so doing taking their children away from the mothers. On the other hand, he criticizes this government for creating a monstrous welfare state and having no concern for getting jobs for those very parents he claims we are forcing back into the labour force. I don't believe the member for Scarborough West (Mr. Lewis) can have it both ways. When the Minister for Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) states that he intends to improve the regulations under which people receive welfare, either through the family benefits programme or through general welfare assistance, his specific aim is to help those people who are able bodied and can work to get back into the labour force, rather than rely on public assistance for the remainder of their lives.

**Mr. Foulds:** Provide the jobs, just provide the jobs.

**Mr. Gregory:** What I find most interesting is the reaction of various people to the ministry's attempt at more efficient spending of public funds for social assistance recipients. Recently in the *Toronto Star*, I read an article in which a Mrs. Andree Roche, who has formed a single working parents' association, has praised the attempts of Mr. Taylor to help those mothers who are relying upon public welfare at this stage of their lives.

**Mr. Swart:** Were there 10 in that organization?

**Mr. Gregory:** Mrs. Roche, of Scarborough, makes about \$10,000 a year as a secretary. She has raised her daughter on her own, and I quote here Mrs. Roche's words:

I am sure many of these welfare mothers would be glad to work if they had proper child care facilities; many wouldn't work no matter what you offered, and they're the ones that make me so mad. It's important to me to be able to hold my head up. It's a quality that I want my own child to learn. I didn't want her to grow up thinking people owe you a living.

Those were Mrs. Roche's words, not mine.

The minister has consistently told these mothers they will not be forced back into the labour force if it is more important that they be at home to raise their children. However, what he did say is that if a young, single woman with a child is also living with her mother, does that child need two women to supervise one child? Is it not possible that a young mother of a two- or three-year-old child could be settling in to 13 or 14 years on welfare if there are not sufficient day-care facilities available, or if there is not a back-up help in the home available to that particular mother? In changing the regulations the minister is attempting to break 13- and 14-year cycles of dependency on welfare. That is the central issue of which we are talking today, not welfare baiting or job creation.

**Mr. Foulds:** Not job creation? I am glad you think that.

**Mr. Gregory:** The real philosophical difference, however, in the approach to this whole question of job creation between this government and the official opposition—

**Mr. McClellan:** You are opting out.

Interjection.

**Mr. Gregory:** You know, when one is speaking in terms of the opposition, one gets the definite impression of making a sudden noise on a turkey farm, and I mean no irreverence to the turkeys.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** He's clarifying the minister's statements for us.

**Mr. Gregory:** The real philosophical differences, however, in the approach to this whole question of job creation between this government—

**Mr. Foulds:** Have you ever been on a turkey farm?

**Mr. Gregory:** —and the official opposition, is that the official opposition wants to expand the number of jobs in the public service regardless how significant those jobs may be. Again they are at least consistent, in contrast



to the Liberals on this matter. We want to see mothers who have relied on welfare working in the private sector, if that is at all possible, not in the public sector.

What I find so distasteful about the casual remarks of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) is that he is exploiting the emotional content of this issue by portraying his own New Democrats as the really great good guys and the Progressive Conservative government as the terrible, evil Tories.

**Mr. Di Santo:** What do you guys do?

**Mr. Foulds:** That's a fair evaluation.

**Mr. Gregory:** He refuses to concede the possibility that we are attempting to improve—

**Mr. Lawlor:** When are you going to call him to order, Mr. Speaker? He is reading.

**Mr. Gregory:** —the administration of public welfare in Ontario by breaking the dependency of social assistance recipients on public welfare wherever possible; he accuses us of intensifying anxieties and agonies in those very people. Yet if we even allude to his exploitation of emotionalism in this case, we are still branded as insensitive and irrational, as if New Democrats had a monopoly on sensitivity and virtue.

**Mr. Foulds:** Only sensitivity; not virtue.

**Mr. Gregory:** What I find so disturbing about his remarks concerns the lack of perspective, the lack of balance in approaching social issues. For example, I find the recent proposal made by Mr. Martin Goodman, managing editor of the Toronto Star, in an address to the Canadian Red Cross Society, most intriguing.

Generally, he favours the presence of a large number of volunteers in the social service community as a vital and valuable presence. He proceeds to propose that volunteers be permitted some minor degree of compensation for their time and effort in the role of volunteer through deduction in their income tax. He states:

Surely the social values reflected in taxation policy should recognize the benefit from people giving their time, particularly when it comes from the young, the elderly or the working poor. Certainly society would gain more from the new volunteers who would come in than it would lose in tax revenues.

But I suggest the hon. member for Scarborough West would find such a proposal im-

practical, because he would in all likelihood suggest that the greater use of volunteers in the social service community would offset the professionalism of the experts.

**Mr. Lawlor:** This is not fair. When he is reading his speech like that it is hard to interject, particularly when you are sitting in the wrong seat.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Gregory:** The institutionalization of the whole social field is their goal. It is in his interest and in his party's interest to see a greater unionization and expansion of the social service sector.

**Mr. Lawlor:** That's a prepared text; isn't that so?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Germa:** Who wrote that?

**Mr. Ferrier:** Did Taylor write that speech for you?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is quite in order, that's his own speech.

**Mr. Samis:** One of Taylor's old speeches.

Interjections.

**Mr. Gregory:** If members opposite don't understand it just try and listen anyway as I go along and maybe they will learn something.

**Mr. Philip:** Why don't you stop, do you think you will lose your place?

Interjections.

**Mr. Gregory:** It is in the interest of the leader of the opposition party to see the greater unionization and expansion of the social service sector, for he and his party want to see the institutionalization of charity in the form of a Crown corporation.

There is no need for amateurs in the field of social services, according to him. Like everything else only the state knows better than private effort or individual initiative even in this field, in his opinion.

I was also disappointed, Mr. Speaker, in his politically opportunistic attempts to portray the side effects of the 5.5 per cent limit on social service expenditures as established fact, as a *fait accompli*. For example, he describes the impact of the 5.5 per cent limit on the Kingston Children's Aid Society by pointing out that officials at that CAS will have to reduce by \$1 per day the value of food used to feed children in the group homes

run by CAS in that city. He says that food will now cost \$1.98 a day rather than \$2.98 a day. How did he arrive at that conclusion?

**Mr. McClellan:** They told us.

**Mr. Gregory:** Yes, I can quite imagine.

In all likelihood New Democratic Party researchers phoned up people at the Kingston CAS and asked them: "What effect will the 5.5 per cent increase have on your budget for the coming year?" And they probably replied: "Well it leaves \$1.98 per day instead of \$2.98 per day to feed children in group homes;" and that's that.

**Mr. Foulds:** Yes, based on their needs.

**Mr. Gregory:** What the Leader of the Opposition leaves out is the fact that the budget for the Kingston Children's Aid Society has not been finally determined in the 1976-1977 fiscal year. Yet he makes the realm of speculation a political fact of the day. He fails to mention that Kingston Children's Aid Society officials will consult with Community and Social Service Ministry personnel to determine the final budget, not in terms of specific allocations of each item but in the total amount of funds required to run that CAS operation.

**Mr. Foulds:** How do you arrive at that total?

**Mr. Gregory:** In Kapuskasing, he lets it be known that there will be a staff reduction of 6.5, that there will be no funds available for summer camp programmes and that all preventive programmes will be dropped. What he conveniently ignores are the assurances of the minister and the people in the Community and Social Services Ministry that in the event that certain Children's Aid Societies cannot function with the 5.5 per cent limit, attempts will be made to change that situation. What it also indicates is that the herculean efforts of the NDP research people are really a myth.

Interjection.

**Mr. Gregory:** Any person, including myself, can phone up people at Children's Aid Societies and ask them what impact 5.5 per cent limits on social service expenditures will have on their operation.

**Mr. Foulds:** Why didn't your ministry do that?

**Mr. Gregory:** I can only speak for myself.

**Mr. Foulds:** Thank God.

**Mr. Gregory:** I did that. I phoned and contacted in person the head of the Region of

Peel Children's Aid Society and inquired whether the 5.5 per cent limit would severely affect their operation in the coming year. Much to my surprise, as a matter of fact, I found it would not mean a drastic curtailment of services so I could conclude just the opposite of what the Leader of the Opposition is saying.

**Mr. Ferrier:** Did you call Kingston?

**Mr. Gregory:** I am not from Kingston, sir. I am from Mississauga East.

**Mr. McClellan:** Fifty per cent of the societies cannot live on the guidelines.

**Mr. Gregory:** I realize most sincerely that these people are going to have a difficult time working within the 5.5 per cent limit.

**Mr. McClellan:** Oh, you do?

**Mr. Gregory:** Yes, I do, but I also congratulate them—

**Mr. Germa:** They are expendable, aren't they?

**Mr. Gregory:** I congratulate them on really making an attempt to reduce wastage in public funds, if there is any, in this specific field. I congratulate the social service personnel in the region of Peel for the responsible and even-handed manner in which they face this problem or challenge. They didn't go running off to the press, to the media, making all sorts of unjustified claims about the impact of the 5.5 per cent limit. They did not scream, as has happened in certain areas of Ontario, that there will be more teen suicides—

**Mr. McClellan:** Continue to attack the Children's Aid Societies.

**Mr. Gregory:** —that there will be more children running around lost in the streets of the city of Mississauga, that there will be more drug abuse. No, they didn't resort to those irresponsible and sensational tactics of getting publicity for their cause, Mr. Speaker. In that fashion they didn't commit undue damage to their cause because they see themselves serving the community in a highly responsible and serious manner.

In changing the approach to welfare administration and the distribution of welfare funds in this province, the Community and Social Services minister is taking the first important step in the long road to overhauling the whole system, an overhaul that has been needed for a long time.



**Mr. Foulds:** Yes, 32 years.

**Mr. Gregory:** The NDP response is anti-reform in rhetoric, and status quo to any change in the welfare system. The minister is to be congratulated on his effort, particularly in the light of undertaking this overhaul without affecting the overall services provided to people. So long as the NDP leader continues to demonstrate the deficiencies of the restraint programme, I could stand here and counter him with examples of people who are working hard to work within the context of the restraint programme.

**Mr. Foulds:** You have given us one example against 17 that we have.

**Mr. Gregory:** All I have to do is look to the city of Mississauga; and what do you find there?

Interjections.

**Mr. Gregory:** There go those turkeys again, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

**Mr. Gregory:** City council will maintain an overall level of municipal services within a 10 per cent increase. There will be no reduction in city staff and no serious curtailment in services. Again these officials and locally-elected representatives are to be congratulated for trying to make the restraint programme work. Again, Mr. Speaker, I must stress that these same people have not gone to the media screaming their heads off about how they need more money.

In further discussing the reply to the Speech from the Throne by the leader of the official opposition, I am most disappointed in his total absence of proposals for the construction of new housing in the province. Certainly this government has done more—  
[9:45]

**Mr. Angus:** What about your lack?

**Mr. Gregory:** This government has done more in the way of getting new houses constructed than any other government in Canada.

**Mr. Samis:** How many last year?

**Mr. Foulds:** That's because you live in Mississauga.

**Mr. Gregory:** Our assortment of programmes has helped all cross-sections of the Ontario community—

**Mr. Samis:** Only two provinces went down last year.

**Mr. Gregory:** —ranging from low and moderate incomes to those individuals who would normally be able to make equity purchases in housing, but because of the crushing burden of inflation have required that extra help to become new and proud home owners. The leader of the third party in this House has remarked on the failure of the first time home buyers programme. Again, the Liberal leader dismisses it as a giveaway programme. How does he justify his remarks when you look at the actual results of the first time home buyers grant programme? Up until the middle of March over 112,378 parties applied for this grant.

**Mr. Nixon:** Including several in \$100,000 homes.

**Mr. Gregory:** Oh, isn't it wonderful that somebody can buy a \$100,000 home? I don't find that too frightening.

**Mr. Nixon:** You and your Tories.

**Mr. Gregory:** They're not all Tories.

**Mr. Good:** And you give them \$1,500 to do it.

**Mr. Gregory:** Some of them are New Democrats, as a matter of fact. Several are New Democrats. Some are New Democrats in the far north who own \$100,000 homes, and you all know it, don't you? And a few Liberals have them too.

**Mr. Hall:** They are human too.

**Mr. Gregory:** Over 82,000 individuals or families were able to take advantage of moving into a new home, and thus in a small way opened up rental accommodation to those people who prefer to rent on a continuing basis.

**Mr. Germa:** That's \$1,000 a vote.

**Mr. Gregory:** Not a bad result for such a terrible programme as described by the leader of the third party. At the same time, I'm happy to see the introduction of the New Home Warranties Act, designed to protect new home buyers from questionable workmanship in new housing.

**Mr. Foulds:** Especially in Mississauga.

**Mr. Gregory:** Yes, I'm going to get to that, as a matter of fact. This legislation, when it becomes a reality, will be a tremend-

ous help to residents in my riding, since I understand from the newspaper this morning the region of Peel received 96 per cent—

**Mr. Foulds:** No, 91.

**Mr. Gregory:** It was 96.

**Mr. Foulds:** No, 91.

**Mr. Gregory:** All right, will you split the difference at 93 per cent?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Would the hon. members direct their comments to the Chair?

**Mr. Gregory:** Thank you. Ninety-three per cent of the OHAP grants during 1975 were in the region of Peel. Five Tory members there too; it's marvellous.

**Mr. Good:** How comes the Peel region got all that government money?

**Mr. Gregory:** Because we did all the work. We released all the houses, did all the work. You know, you were there.

**Mr. Good:** Show us who gets all the money.

**Mr. McCague:** Who else wanted it?

**Mr. Gregory:** Mr. Speaker, if we can cut down the gabble over there, I would urge the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) to see if ways can be found to extend the New Home Warranties Act to older homes built in the last few years. However, I would urge the government to intensify efforts to increase the supply of new housing in as many communities as possible throughout this province. As the Metropolitan Toronto area grows ever larger with the possibility of ever-declining rates of construction in new homes, whether they be condominium, high-rise, townhouse developments or single family dwellings, with the impact of rent review we must recognize the urgent necessity to get on with the job of getting new homes built.

As the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) has repeatedly stated on many occasions, we can all go about looking for villains to lay blame upon for the lack of housing, and there are certain villains no doubt, but we must bend our energies to building new homes.

For these reasons I would like to just briefly outline a method which one specific developing company has brought to my attention and which would be most applicable to the city of Mississauga and certainly many other communities in Ontario.

**Mr. Germa:** Tell us who it is.

**Mr. McClellan:** How much profit?

**Mr. Gregory:** I wouldn't suggest for one minute, in addressing myself to the New Democrats, to even discuss profit. I realize how it hurts their sensitive feelings.

**Mr. Samis:** Don't condescend.

**Mr. Germa:** Tell us who this developer is.

**Mr. Gregory:** As a matter of fact I will tell you. There is a group known as Taro Properties, in co-operation with a planning consulting company known as Rogers-Thomson Associates, who associated themselves with firms of engineers, architects, landscape planners, etc. They undertook the task of designing a single family home that could be marketed in the Mississauga area under the price of \$50,000. One of the reasons was in order to qualify for the federal government's \$1,000 homebuyers' grant on new homes under a certain price.

There were many, many problems in undertaking a task of this sort, as you will well realize, anyone who comes from the Metropolitan Toronto area. One of them was the land cost. In the Mississauga area that we are talking about, on previously zoned industrial land the price was \$70,000 per acre unserviced. They had a rather tricky problem right there. The second problem was the local council had been very reluctant to employ or to use the zero line concept. These were two almost insurmountable problems.

The end result that they have come up with after many, many months of study and design is a design that will put single family homes—I am not talking about semi-detached or townhouses or anything else—on the market at a price of \$47,000.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Listen, I did it for \$32,000.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Gregory:** Where?

**Mr. Makarchuk:** In Brantford.

**Mr. Grossman:** In Brantford, when?

**Mr. Bounsall:** Have you heard of it?

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Last year.

**Mr. Gregory:** Have you any idea of the price of land in Mississauga as opposed to Brantford?



Mr. Makarchuk: It is about the same.

An hon. member: It is identical.

Mr. Gregory: It is not identical.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the hon. member will continue.

Mr. Gregory: The speakers have been arguing the—

Mr. Angus: Find his place for him, will you?

Mr. Samis: Has he mixed up his pages or what?

Mr. Gregory: I haven't mixed up my papers at all.

Mr. Grossman: He doesn't need papers.

Mr. Gregory: There is absolutely no way, and members know it, though they talk, unless it's on a co-op basis—and you can't do this on a mass basis—that you can do it for anywhere near this price with any other design. And you have no knowledge of anything under that.

Interjections.

Mr. Gregory: You people state your mark, you just pick your figures out of the air, you couldn't care less for facts.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Gregory: I won't confuse you with facts. Your mind is made up.

Mr. Angus: That is what you would like the people to believe.

Mr. Makarchuk: Cut out the speculators and I will build the homes.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: There is no speculation in Brantford.

Mr. Gregory: If you let me go on you might even like one of these and buy one in my area.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Gregory: The end result is that the housing will be put on the market—you don't keep quiet long enough to learn anything—at a price of \$47,000, complete with full landscaping, paving, park system, in con-

formity with standards of the Planning Act, bicycle path, walkway system, transit system and connecting with the major Mississauga transit system, so that no homeowner is further than 500 ft from a transit system.

Mr. Makarchuk: At that price the consumer gets ripped off by about \$10,000.

Mr. Gregory: Match that in Brantford: Houses are built on a series of cul de sacs, each containing four houses. Each home has its own private back yard. Mississauga council, which has been somewhat reluctant to innovate, has accepted this concept unanimously, and for Mississauga council to do it, fellows, it has got to be good.

Mr. Swart: What percentage of the population can afford them?

Mr. Gregory: At \$47,000?

Mr. Swart: Yes.

Mr. Grossman: Just the teachers.

Mr. Gregory: The people have to afford them at \$47,000. There is nothing cheaper. You know and I know that anywhere in the Mississauga area, in Metropolitan Toronto, townhouses and townhouse condominiums are selling for more than \$47,000.

Mr. Grossman: Too expensive for lawyers.

Mr. Gregory: You people from the backwoods countries wouldn't know that, of course.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: What have you got against the rest of Ontario?

Mr. Makarchuk: How many houses have you built?

Mr. Gregory: These single family detached homes will be built at 11.5 units to the acre, which is just 3.5 units less than that allowable for townhouses. I recognize that it's not going to be appreciated because there doesn't seem to be any knowledge on the other side of the House for anywhere other than their own rural communities. It would be nice if they did know something about the urban communities.

Mr. Makarchuk: How many houses have you built in Ontario?

Mr. Gregory: My only reason for outlining this plan is to show that private enterprise

is ready to co-operate in providing reasonable cost housing to the people.

**Mr. Swart:** How did they get there?

**Mr. Gregory:** And the government of this province is more than ready to co-operate with private enterprise in supplying this need to the people.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Fort William.

**Mr. Grossman:** Who wants to try now?

**Mr. Angus:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Applause.]

**Mr. Angus:** I thank my colleagues for time to collect my thoughts. Mr. Speaker, as this is my first opportunity to speak in relation to the either of the three Throne Speeches, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House, and the Deputy Chairman on their selection and to thank them for the fine jobs that all three of them have been doing throughout these very confusing and interesting sessions that we have been going through.

**Mr. Samis:** Confusing or interesting?

**Mr. Angus:** Both. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by going through, to a certain extent, the Throne Speech as it was presented by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor. The first item that I want to look at is the comments about the national anti-inflation programme performing without flow or inequity.

I would like to read an excerpt from a letter to a number of us from the Premier of Ontario (Mr. Davis), relating to a request that we made to him to intercede on behalf of the pulp and paper workers of this province who were placed in a situation, after many months of a labour dispute, of having a wage settlement forced on them by the Anti-Inflation Board of Canada.

We asked the Premier of this province to act on their behalf to get a settlement that was more realistic, more reasonable in terms of the costs as we have seen them rise in this province. The Premier replied as follows:

As you are aware, it has been this government's policy not to interfere in the collective bargaining process, except as a last resort in the case of strategic services. As I understand it, the overwhelming majority of Canadian Paperworkers locals have concluded their bargaining process and agreements signed are currently under re-

view by the Anti-Inflation Board. All indications are that these agreements follow the pattern established by the Irving case and should prove acceptable under the federal guidelines.

**Mr. Foulds:** What is the date of that?

**Mr. Angus:** Mr. Speaker, the date of that letter, in response to my colleague from Port Arthur, is March 17, 1976.

The whole question is one of understanding. We asked the Premier to act on their behalf. His letter seems to suggest that he doesn't even know what is really happening in this province. He doesn't know that the pulp and paper mills have been using the workers to increase the profits to a greater extent than we've ever seen before. He has not taken the opportunity of trying to win back some of the labour votes that he has obviously lost over the last six or seven months, because I know in my community it was the labour votes that contributed very greatly to my election on Sept. 18. I think that it's very inconsiderate and inconsistent and, I would suggest with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, bordering on incompetence for the Premier of this province not to support the workers of Ontario.

He said he might interfere if it was a strategic service. Well, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues in northern Ontario, and some in southern Ontario, whose communities rely solely on the wages, profits and services provided by those pulp and paper industries, I say they are essential services; they are strategic services. As we saw, many of our northern communities bordered on the brink of economic disaster because of the prolonged labour dispute.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, right off the bat, that the Premier, through the Lieutenant Governor, has lost our confidence—the little that we had to begin with.

[10:00]

The next item that the Speech from the Throne speaks to is the possible curtailing of costs and reordering of priorities in the provincial and national interest in the hope that other governments and the private sector will be encouraged in the battle against inflation. Ironically, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce came out very shortly thereafter and was talking about reordering the priorities and reordering the government's spending. They talked federally, of course, about eliminating the baby bonus and such unnecessary programmes as that. I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, that we, the representatives of a



fairly large number of people in Ontario, deplore that kind of attitude.

The Throne Speech talked about the social programmes that have been rearranged and about the constraint programmes. Just two weeks ago, my colleague from Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) instituted a series of awards called the Albatross of the Month award. I happened to be in his office today when I saw one of them. It came very close to my heart because it relates to the Ministry of Industry and Tourism and the minister himself.

While the Throne Speech talked about government restraints, the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch) announced, I believe it was on March 20, that the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett) threw a party in Hollywood as a means of supporting the Canadian film industry. This is almost totally unbelievable, Mr. Speaker, because it's a truly Canadian situation, we don't throw a party in Canada for our film industry; we throw it in the States. That is the fallacy of the whole illogical attitude that we Canadians have about our own film industry, about our industries, and about the country as a whole.

So I was very pleased to see a gentleman from Kincardine had written in to nominate the Minister of Industry and Tourism, the minister in charge of squandering my tax money, for the "artistic squandering of public funds" category in the next Albatross presentation. I have taken the liberty of seconding that nomination.

Once again the Chamber of Commerce has come to the forefront in austerity and in Saturday's Globe and Mail the new president of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce has talked about a balanced budget for Ontario. He has some interesting comments that I think I should share with you. On one hand, he says there is a need for changing programme priority: "Government programmes should have genuine special benefits and these come best from programmes that create jobs," Mr. Meakes, the president said. He has decreed that we should stop spending money on cultural programmes; on arts, recreation, and what have you.

I admit that in this time of restraint we have to reconsider our priorities and possibly some of the programmes in the arts and recreation and culture may have to suffer a bit. But the thing that really bothers me is where he wants the money to be spent. He wants to see more tax incentives, more government grants to industry in this province.

While I realize that we have to take a look at how we relocate industry throughout On-

tario to have them locate in other parts of the province, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that providing tax incentives is not the way to do it. The companies look upon those as gifts; one-tenth of one per cent of their profit is a present to them. They would have located where they did even if they didn't have them.

Another item that has come to our attention in the NDP in the last couple of months has been the series of press releases between the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) and the Minister of Industry and Tourism relating to the whole idea of tip differential for sectors of the hospitality industry. The first group they have lashed out at has been the people who work in those holes and jug lounges in the Province of Ontario who, the ministers believe, receive a considerable amount of tips so that they can enjoy greater benefits and their employers don't have to spend as much, so they have a minimum wage of \$2.50 when everybody else has \$2.65.

We were worried when we saw the initial statements, because we thought that the ministers were going to require that the employees, as was seen in one of the areas in Toronto just recently, would be forced to deposit their tips with their employer and he in turn would pay them a minimum wage only. That itself would have led to cheating—in fact, it probably did—on behalf of the employees. It obviously led to cheating on behalf of the employer, because he confiscated all the surplus earnings of the workers.

As it stands now, the minimum wage workers in a lot of the non-union firms are deprived of vacation and other benefits laid down by law. It's an obvious contravention of the law of Ontario, but because of the type of operation they have, mostly bordering in a lot of cases on the illegitimate, they are able to get away with it because the type of people who work there are very concerned about their income and are very concerned about not rocking the boat. I say it is a shame that that kind of attitude is supported by the Province of Ontario.

The president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees said that the provision will unfairly penalize the workers affected because fringe benefits are calculated on the basic wages, not on income from tips, and financial institutions look only at basic incomes when considering loan applications. You know, Mr. Speaker, that in July of 1975 the average income for all wage earners in the Canadian hotel, restaurant and tavern industry was \$4,307.16. It is obviously not a great contributor to inflation.



I have yet to see any documentation that shows that the employees of the liquor industry, in the lounges and the beverage rooms in Ontario, are overpaid because of tips. I would suggest that the opposite is true. In fact, I know a number of beverage rooms where I think the employees would be shocked if they ever got an extra nickel thrown on the table. They work for the basic wage.

As it stands now, the basic wage in Ontario is much lower than it should be in terms of the costs of survival for those people who, because of circumstances, whether it be education or what have you, are forced to work in that type of industry. That's the only thing they can get and they must deal with and survive with \$2.50 as the Ministry of Labour has decreed.

In terms of the social services cutbacks I would like to detail a couple of items from my area. I received today a resolution from the city of Thunder Bay, and I would like to read it. It's addressed to Mr. I. Angus, MPP, Toronto, Ont.:

Dear Mr. Angus:

I have been directed by my council to forward to you a copy of a resolution which has been adopted and which is forwarded for your information and attention. We recommend to council endorsement of the director of social services' recommendation concerning the determination of the province's subsidy base line contained in the report dated March 1, 1976, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Treasurer of Ontario, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and the local MPPs.

For your information the director of social services' recommendation referred to in his report is as follows: "That we request the province to exempt from their constraints any moneys which are merely transfers under the Canada Assistance Plan from the federal government to the municipalities."

I suggest that that shows a fair bit of understanding on behalf of the city of Thunder Bay, and particularly of Mr. Don MacLeod, the director of social services, of the problem in Ontario. I believe we have one of the best social services departments in the province. They have gone out of their way to develop new services to get people off the welfare rolls. In fact, there was a situation about a year ago when they had to lay off their own staff because of the quality job they were doing. They laugh when they hear that the hon. Minister of Community and Social

Services is going to bring in regulations that will force people to work, because in effect they had been encouraging and developing people in such a way that they were able to go out and work; anybody who is left on the rolls is there because there is no alternative. Yet the government is prepared to try and force people who have no qualifications, no opportunities, off the welfare rolls when there are no jobs available.

There is one situation in my riding—and I believe in many other ridings in Ontario, a lot of our urban communities have those so-called fringe benefits they can cut back on. I say so-called because they are daycare and work incentive programmes and what have you where they are not tied into this, that or other programme dictated by other agencies.

In my riding there is a municipality called Paipoonge that has a population of somewhere around 2,300 people. Their overall budget is very small, but they have no control over the majority of their budget. The district Children's Aid Society tells them how much they have to pay for the 1976 fiscal year. The Lakehead Roman Catholic School Board tells them how much they have to pay for the coming year. The Lakehead Board of Education tells them how much they have to pay for the coming year. The district Home for the Aged tells them how much they have to pay for the coming year; and under the General Welfare Assistance Act they are required by law to assist those individuals who meet the criteria as set out by the Province of Ontario.

So where do they go to meet that 5.5 ceiling, or the 8.8, depending on the area? Do they go to the roads budget, which is approximately \$89,000 a year to operate and maintain 100 miles of road in a very rural, very strung out community? Or do they go after the recreation budget, which is \$6,000 and provides for the basic heat and light of their community centres and allows them to open a swimming pool in the summer time?

They are not unique, because there are many other rural communities in the province that are in that kind of situation. They have one choice—they have to raise the property taxes.

In the area of health care I'd like in a few minutes to detail what I call musical beds in Thunder Bay, because it's quite interesting in terms of the inconsistencies and incompetence of the Ministry of Health in their recent decisions. Before I do that, I'd like to make one comment, one which I think affects more my colleague from Lake Nipigon.



The government has talked about deterrent fees for health services in the Province of Ontario. Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure you that the people in northern Ontario already have a deterrent fee. As the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) says, the deterrent fee for some of the people in his riding is 396 miles. That's the distance they have to go to see a medical practitioner of one kind or another. We have deterrent fees in that we don't have the facilities or the services of a qualified medical staff. To be honest with you, Mr. Speaker, because of the size of our community we never will have the quality of workers and staff you have here in Metropolitan Toronto or who are available in other major centres in Ontario. Yet we have to pay out of our own pocket to travel almost 1,000 miles to come to Sick Children's or Toronto General Hospital or any of the other fine health centres in Toronto, in order to get the very necessary health services that people in my area and the member for Port Arthur's area and the member for Lake Nipigon's area require for their survival.

[10:15]

In terms of a human situation, as to the problems that have existed and will be only compounded by the present reduction in medical beds, active treatment beds in Thunder Bay, plus an additional comment on the whole health services field, I received a letter on March 18 from a constituent of mine who has a daughter residing in one of the outlying areas—not within my riding but within a 150-mile range—and the daughter is the same age as myself. She had to wait from July, 1975, until Oct. 23, 1975, to get an appointment with a doctor in Thunder Bay and then had to wait until Dec. 7 for a hospital bed. When her problem was finally looked into, a bone biopsy was finally done on Dec. 17. Now that is close to six months from the initial date of request.

When the bone biopsy was done, she was found to have bone cancer in her arm and since the doctors in Thunder Bay were unable to do anything for her at that time, they arranged for her to go to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester where she had her case diagnosed in one day. The next day, Dec. 30, they had to amputate her right arm and shoulder because by now the tumour had penetrated too deeply and they were forced to do this radical amputation. "I feel that had she not had to wait so long to see a doctor and for a hospital bed, she may have been spared some of this heartbreaking situation." That's a quote from her mother.

That's the kind of situation that we're really scared about because of these cutbacks. This happened before the cutbacks, and I don't think any one of us in this House will agree that that should continue to happen. It's ironic that she had to go to the United States of America for the diagnosis.

In Thunder Bay, we presently have a very interesting situation in terms of health beds. It's quite possible that because we are a geographically isolated community, the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) cannot tell us that our people can go to Ignace or Schreiber or Pickle Crow or what have you for our health services. We're self-contained. Everything we have we use. If we don't have it, we don't use it unless we travel great distances.

The Minister of Health has decreed that 107 hospital beds in Thunder Bay shall be eliminated within a month or so. The Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital over the past year has eliminated 122 treatment beds. The Northwestern Ontario Regional Centre, which is a mental retardation unit in the same building as the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, has eliminated 25 beds. Over the past two or three years, Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital ironically was in a very overcrowded situation. They had eight, 10 and 12 individuals in a ward that now houses four.

There was very extreme overcrowding and, rightly so, they moved out those patients. Primarily they were psycho-geriatric patients and through a variety of processes, I think, some were returned to the community, some were transferred to other communities and a fair number of them over the two or three years were transferred to one of the long-term private nursing homes, an authorized home under the Ministry of Health. This one home right now has a total of 105 of its 105 beds being utilized by psycho-geriatric patients.

There are still approximately 80 to 90 psycho-geriatric patients at the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. In our three general hospitals in Thunder Bay—McKellar General Hospital which is in the riding of Fort William, and St. Joseph's General Hospital and the Port Arthur General Hospital which are in the riding of my colleague (Mr. Foulds)—there are anywhere from 60 to 100 long-term-care patients. These are individuals whom their doctors, because of their medical circumstances and because of the lack of long-term-care beds in Thunder Bay, have admitted to the general hospitals because there is no other place to put them. They can no longer cope at home either with their family or with home care. In fact, I've talked



to a few doctors in Thunder Bay—I admit that I don't talk to that many because we are of different political streams—but those I have talked to have suggested to me that they delay as long as they can in admitting people to the general hospitals for long-term care or treatment. The story is that once they get them in there, they don't have any hope of transferring them to a nursing home or a long-term-care home, because it is just impossible.

I have clearly set the scene for the situation. We have 60 to 100 individuals in our general hospitals who should be in long-term-care homes. We have 105 psycho-geriatric patients who were transferred from the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. Presently, at the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, we have one empty wing, a 100-bed wing that has no one in it; the doors are locked.

What I would suggest to the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) is that there must be a re-analysis of the bed situation in Thunder Bay. If the psycho-geriatric patients are returned to that empty ward in the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital and the long-term-care patients are moved out of the general hospitals into private nursing homes, it would in effect have a saving initially of a considerable amount of money because in the general hospitals the average cost is somewhere around \$90 to \$100 a day, while I understand the per diem for a private nursing home is around \$18 to \$20 per day. If a private nursing home, in its free enterprise world, can very adequately look after these psycho-geriatric patients, then I cannot see why the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital or some other portion of the ministry could not take care of the same residents at a similar cost in the Lakehead Psychiatric facility.

I am tempted to do some mathematics, but I have found that even by using the ministry's figures as opposed to the figures provided by the hospitals themselves, it is very difficult to get a clear picture.

I would like to talk very briefly—I realize the hour of adjournment is coming upon us—about some of the activities of the Northern Ontario Development Corp. The one thing I am concerned about, because I am a northerner and I grew up in the tourist industry, is the kind of money that we have been splurging in some of our areas in a way that I feel is very frivolous. I know my colleagues have spoken on this many times in the past, sir, but the area I am concerned about is Minaki Lodge.

We have talked about our constraint programme; we have talked about saving money;

we have talked about cutting hospital beds—and the hon. gentlemen across the floor always ask us for the alternatives. I realize it's hindsight, because the money has been spent, and I doubt very much that you could find a buyer.

I don't know the total amount of dollars that has been spent for the work which has been done, and which I understand is far from being completed, on Minaki Lodge, but I would respectfully suggest that it is at least over \$5 million. I feel that is very irresponsible indeed. Even in terms of northern Ontario, in developing the tourist industry or developing secondary industry, that money could have been better spent. It could have been better spent on providing much-needed health transportation for northern Ontario, whether it be ground ambulances or air ambulances.

It is incredible that over the years, and especially this year, the government of Ontario has been so inept in its spending priorities.

**Mr. Foulds:** The Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine) is listening to this.

**Mr. Angus:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether the hon. Minister of Industry and Tourism went to Hollywood. I notice he is not here tonight; perhaps he is watching the Academy Awards on television.

**Mr. Foulds:** He probably went to Disneyland instead.

**Mr. Angus:** My colleagues are getting restless.

Mr. Speaker, I must admit there have been some bright notes in the speech at the opening of this Legislature. One of them has been the Blind Persons' Rights Act, and I know that when I communicated to the city of Thunder Bay that this Act had been introduced they were quite pleased because they, as well as many of the other communities throughout Ontario, had lobbied with the Ontario government to provide a little bit of equality to those people who do not have the same senses that we in the Ontario Legislature have. Mind you, some of my colleagues, and possibly some of those in the rump—I like that—might suggest that some of us don't have some of our senses either, but eyesight possibly is not one that we have missed.

Considering these things—you know, it is interesting to note them but I am not going



to comment, Mr. Speaker, until I see the legislation, because so often in the past we look at something like the New Home Warranties Act and say, "Great. Fantastic"—and then when we get the real bill it is nothing anywhere near what we considered.

On page 10 of the Speech from the Throne it talks about the alcohol-related driving offences, particularly involving young people. I know my colleague on my right, the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Ziemba), is very concerned about those kinds of problems in our province; and I too am concerned.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that one of the things this government failed to do in its Throne Speech was to bring in any kind of legislation to control or restrict or eliminate advertising by the liquor and beer industry in Ontario. I do not buy the concept, Mr. Speaker, that liquor ads and beer ads only tend to sway the already committed drinker from one brand to another. With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that those ads highlight the so-called good times of alcohol and entrap people, particularly young people, to alcohol, to the pubs, to drinking driving—that kind of situation.

Just as an example, Mr. Speaker, I had occasion to speak to one of the individuals from the Addiction Research Foundation. We

were exploring this kind of problem and he really brought it home to me—he has been working in the field for a number of years and is quite well respected in my community—when he said that his four-year-old or five-year-old son is singing beer commercials. If a five-year-old is taking notice of it and is thinking beer, what is going to happen when he is 13 or 14 or 15, let alone when he gets to 18?

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member have further remarks to make?

Mr. Angus: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would be happy to continue tomorrow.

Mr. Angus moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, I would just advise the House that tomorrow we will continue with the debate on the Throne Speech.

Hon. Mr. Meen moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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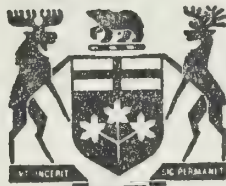
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Ontario *Ontario*. Legislative Assembly

# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

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Tuesday, March 30, 1976

Afternoon Session

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Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe  
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

THE QUEEN'S PRINTER  
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1976

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

## ESTIMATES

**Mr. Speaker:** I have a message from the Honourable the Administrator of the Province signed by his own hand.

By his own hand, G. A. Gale, the Administrator of the Province of Ontario, transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1977, and recommends them to the legislative assembly, Toronto, March 30, 1976.

Statements by the ministry.

## MILTON CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

**Hon. J. R. Smith:** I have the answer to a question asked of me yesterday by the hon. member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. Reed).

I am pleased to advise the House that the grand jury report of March 17 was responded to by Justice O'Leary of Hamilton on March 26, and a point that the grand jury had raised is dealt therein regarding the lack of indoor exercise facilities. It was acknowledged that there is no place other than the court in the institution and in good weather the inmates are encouraged to exercise outdoors.

The individual inmate who was formerly a student at one of the nearby deaf institutions was dealt with. He was incarcerated on March 8; sentenced on March 25. I am pleased to say that after consultation with Mr. McCarron and Dr. Reynolds, the chief psychiatrist at the Drury school for the hearing handicapped at Milton, he is being transferred today to OCI in Brampton.

The front staircase referred to is part of the courthouse and not of the jail and is therefore the responsibility of the Minister of Government Services (Mrs. Scrivener). The privacy screens have been replaced. Regarding the replacement of this facility, there are no immediate plans, but drawings have been completed for a consolidation of the Milton and Brampton jails into a new detention facility on the grounds of the Maple-

hurst Detention Centre at Milton. At present, there are no capital funds available for this or for its construction.

## AIR STANDARDS

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I have a clearer response to the question posed by the leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. S. Smith) yesterday regarding arsenic levels. The guidelines which the Ministry of Health uses are those published by the threshold limit value committee of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, and they are as follows:

For arsenic trioxide in production, the threshold limit value is 50 micrograms per cubic metre; for arsenic trioxide handling and use, 250 micrograms per cubic metre. These levels are used by the occupational health branch for occupational exposure as guidelines only and the current threshold limit value is being actively reviewed by the occupational health protection branch in view of recent reports of carcinogenicity.

The Ministry of Health has been in touch with the Ministry of the Environment and the ambient standard used in Ontario for community air is in fact 24 micrograms per cubic metre. The hon. member's question seemed to refer to ambient air and I think that probably should be referred to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr).

**Mr. Speaker:** Oral questions.

## TEACHER-BOARD DISPUTES

**Mr. Lewis:** I'd like to begin by exploring a matter with the Premier, if I could. Since the situation between the teachers and the board in Sault Ste. Marie is deteriorating more rapidly than one would wish—it may well result in the schools being vacated by the end of this week—how is the government going to deal with the extraordinary position which the teachers have taken, unlike any other, which is to ask for compulsory arbitration in advance of a strike or lockout in an effort to avoid the closing down of the schools for several weeks?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Really there are, I think, two situations that give the government great concern. The one is in the Soo and the other is in Windsor, where I understand the teachers perhaps were out today. It is a personal feeling—and this is not a government policy decision, because it came to my attention only an hour or so ago—that with the sort of cumulative situation in the city of Windsor the probability of the government allowing the situation to last for any lengthy period of time, in my view, would be limited.

With respect to Sault Ste. Marie, I am not familiar with the facts as yet. If the teachers have offered to go to compulsory arbitration and if that is the solution, then if the board does not go along with this sort of approach, I think the answer to the question becomes very obvious and that the members of this House will be called upon. I assume there will be a recommendation from the Education Relations Commission to deal with it and we will deal with it very expeditiously.

I think it is fair to state that at this time of year in particular, any strike that appears to be going to be prolonged would prejudice without any question the school year of the students affected. The government, I think on careful consideration, which the matter will receive tomorrow, will take steps to see that this doesn't happen.

**Mr. Lewis:** Supplementary: Just to pursue it one step further, can the Premier see whether it is possible to make Bill 100 work in the absence of strikes by giving great support to those efforts that some boards and teachers are attempting to find through, let us say, voluntary arbitration? Would it be possible, for example, in the case of the Soo to try to persuade the board even today, before its meeting tonight, to accept the voluntary arbitration suggestion of the teachers so that there is no full strike or lockout in the Soo, since the teachers would desperately like to avoid one and don't understand the anomaly that they are driven to do it when the legislation doesn't seem to provide support for the other alternatives?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** I can only say it's encouraging to hear from the Leader of the New Democratic Party that, if one side does seek voluntary, binding, compulsory arbitration—

**Mr. Lewis:** Voluntary, binding arbitration. It's in the bill as part of the bill.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** —as being a solution, that applies to both sides, and the government

should bring pressure on whichever side did not wish to do it.

**Mr. Lewis:** I'm asking the Premier to do so.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Well, I'm just saying I find it interesting, because this was not always the position of that particular party; in fact, I don't think it was even its position during the Metro strike.

**Mr. Lewis:** It's part of the bill; it is one of the roots of the bill. It's the law. The Premier supported the bill.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** With great respect, it is not part of the bill unless both sides agree to voluntary arbitration.

**Mr. Lewis:** I am asking the Premier to encourage the board.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** I'm saying I think it's very encouraging because what the Leader of the Opposition is saying is that he would support pushing either side.

**Mr. Lewis:** I am saying the board is intransigent in this case.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Nixon:** Since the Premier mentioned the situation in Windsor, is he going to instruct or ask representatives of the Ministry of Education or someone in his own office to make sure that the board and the representatives of the teachers' professional organization are aware of what amounts to a statement of government policy in the answer to this question, that the government does not intend to allow this strike to go on for very long? Surely he can use that in whatever way is available to him to assist in an early solution without directly using the powers of this Legislature.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** I hoped I had made it clear in my answer to the question of the Leader of the Opposition that I was expressing a personal point of view, because this matter came to my attention just an hour or so ago. It is a matter that will be considered by cabinet tomorrow and I'm expressing a personal point of view that may become government policy. But with the history of the situation in the city of Windsor I do not believe a prolonged strike could be tolerated, and instead this thing should be brought to an end quite speedily.

If this emerges tomorrow as being, in fact, government policy, which I expect it will be, without question that will be communi-



cated to both sides in the city of Windsor, because the academic careers of those students at this stage of the year cannot be prejudiced.

**Mr. Lewis:** Is the Premier prepared to bring them together?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Yes. They met last Saturday.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Would the Premier send the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) into the community in an attempt to resolve the issue today so that any legislation may not be necessary tomorrow?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** I think all of us would be pleased if we could avoid legislation. I can understand the view of the hon. member who asked the question, who would be more than pleased if somebody could solve this without that particular event taking place, and I totally understand it.

**Mr. Nixon:** So would we all.

**Mr. McEwen:** Yes or no? Answer the question.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** I should forewarn him that I do not know whether that, in fact, will happen. I would say to him, and I think he knows, that the Education Relations Commission was there last Saturday and I believe they had a public meeting. Perhaps the hon. member was in attendance.

**Mr. B. Newman:** I was there.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** There were some 500 people there and I think the Commission got a real sense of the points of view of the community itself. I've had some calls myself from the city of Windsor, as I say, about an hour or so ago, and I think the feeling there is rather self-evident.

## HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

**Mr. Lewis:** A question of the acting Minister of Health: When did the Ministry of Health learn in the case of the Perth hospital in Lanark county that it had been operating at a level of 57 beds for a full year while the ministry had it down as operating at a level of 82 beds and, on that basis, made the ill-advised cuts which it subsequently had to revise?

**Mr. Nixon:** No wonder their budget looks so good.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The advice which was received in the minister's office was that the hospital had been functioning at the level of about 53 beds for the year 1975. It had apparently on its own made this kind of cut and, as a result of that information, the people of Perth have been notified that the level of 57 beds will be seriously considered. There was a meeting yesterday between some officials of the Ministry of Health, the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman), and the board of governors of the hospital in Perth. Some recommendations have been made which will be very carefully considered and we shall be discussing the matter with the board of governors of that hospital.

[2:15]

**Mr. Lewis:** By way of supplementary, since the ministry had to know for the entire year—it receives reports every two weeks based on the 57-bed level—how is it that it made an error of \$123,000 in respect of that hospital? When the government makes that kind of error out of sheer incompetence doesn't the minister think she should look more favourably on their need for \$75,000 more, rather than dislocate the entire community?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition impugns incompetence and I am not at all sure that this is a fact. However, I should like him to realize that—

**Mr. Bullbrook:** He doesn't impugn it; he alleges it.

**Mr. Deans:** You are not sure—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —there will be further consultation with the interested people on the board of governors of that hospital and all of their proposals will be seriously considered.

## RADIOACTIVITY IN RENFREW AREA

**Mr. Lewis:** Another question of the acting Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker. Is she aware that in the Chromasco plant a few miles outside Renfrew there have now been high radioactive counts—sorry; in the dump which Chromasco uses outside of Renfrew high radioactive counts have now been observed and those counts are not being shared with the community of citizens in the immediate vicinity, causing great anxiety; nor have the radioactive readings within the plant to which the workers are exposed been posted. Can we ask the acting Minister of Health to move on

this speedily so that the workers are told and the community is appeased?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, as you well know, it is the policy of the Minister of Health to make those reports available to all of the people concerned and I am sure that this is precisely what will happen. I shall move to see what can be done about it.

**Mr. Cassidy:** The way you published the smoking report, eh?

### INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

**Mr. Lewis:** Thank you. That's a change since Port Hope, when they weren't made.

May I ask the minister a final question in her capacity as Minister of Labour; no doubt this will relieve her.

Why is it that the industrial safety branch refused to act on the various recommendations of its own inspectors and the recommendation of a coroner's jury involving the death of Subash Kalia last October, 1975, and indeed showed great contempt for the observations made by the coroner's jury in an effort to resolve the situation?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I can report to you that the reports which were made at the time of that accident revealed absolutely no indication by the inspector who inspected at the time of the accident, that any prosecution should be carried out. There is obviously a discrepancy between the court transcript and the reports which we have within the industrial safety branch and those are being investigated right at the moment.

**Mr. Lewis:** By way of supplementary: Is the minister saying that the inspector who testified under oath that he had asked the branch to prosecute in the case of Astralite was lying under oath? Is that what she is saying, or that there is no such indication within the ministry's record?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly did not state that the inspector was lying. I said that there is a discrepancy because within the ministry's records—

**Mr. Cassidy:** Sure is.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —there is no statement supporting any concept of prosecution. It is within the transcript that that statement is made and we are attempting to correlate those two anomalous situations right at the moment.

**Mr. Good:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Leaving aside the matter of the transcript relating to prosecution, is there indication within the industrial accident bureau regarding the original report showing that the safety guards were missing and that the coroner had ordered them to be replaced?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, there is no such report. As a matter of fact, that plant was inspected with some regularity. In January the inspection which was carried out resulted in five written directions, none of which related to that machine. There has never been a direction related to that machine because the guard is in place at all times except when the machine has to be cleaned.

The power must be turned off in two stages in order to open up the machine to clean it but unfortunately the workman apparently neglected to turn off one stage of the power so that there was power when he opened the machine in order to clean it.

**Mr. Lewis:** One final supplementary, if I may, Mr. Speaker: How does the minister reconcile that with the clear and explicit findings of the coroner's jury that the situation was unsafe? In fact, the coroner charged the jury saying, "The present procedures of the industrial safety branch, as presented at this inquest, lack many of the essentials for ensuring adequate safety and preventing accidents and fatalities." How does that conform with the minister's whitewash of what the branch did?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I am certainly not whitewashing what the branch has done. I am suggesting to the member that there are photographs within the branch which show that the guard is in place on that machine and the only way in which the guard can be out of place is when the machine is opened for cleaning.

### RENT REVIEW PROGRAMME

**Mr. Breithaupt:** A question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations with respect to rent review matters. Mr. Speaker: As a result of some recent decisions, particularly in the Kitchener area, which have allowed a 17.7 per cent average increase, can the minister advise whether he is monitoring the various regional areas and the awards being granted on rental increases, particularly when it would appear that a large number of them are in excess of the eight per cent figure, which was expected? If there is



monitoring, can the minister advise us what are the average awards being made after we have now had some experience with the operation of the regional offices?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, first of all, reports are being received in our headquarters establishment in Toronto from the various rent review offices. We have not calculated any average award nor do I think it would be constructive to do so since it would be very misleading. I want to point out to the hon. member that anybody who feels the rent review officer's decision should be contested has the right to appeal to the rent review board. That has not as yet been done by anyone in this province.

### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

**Mr. Breithaupt:** A question of the acting Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker: With respect to the continuing controversy between public health nurses and the health units on salary negotiations, is the minister able to report to us at this time with respect to any conclusions which have occurred or any further input from her ministry in an attempt to resolve this problem which is affecting public health nurses in areas throughout Ontario?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, this is one of the situations in which I can wear both my hats because I have been asked on—

**Mr. Nixon:** Hats.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I don't mind wearing two hats; it is just having two heads that bothers me, that's all.

Interjection.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Yes, they pinch.

**Mr. Reid:** You can talk out of both sides of your mouth that way.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** At times just like you, Patrick.

Mr. Speaker, I was trying to address you, sir. We have had meetings with the Ontario Nurses Association regarding this matter and are attempting at this point to arrange meetings with representatives of the boards of health of Ontario in order to try to persuade the boards to come to an agreement regarding arbitration which the nurses desperately want and which we think would probably be a useful move.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is the minister prepared to restore to those

boards of health, who did not take it a year and a half ago, the offer made at that time of enough funds to provide for parity for the public health nurses? Or does the minister intend to keep the boards within the eight per cent wage guideline which has been sent out by the ministry recently?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I think the stance of the ministry would depend primarily upon the response of the boards of health in regard to our request.

**Mrs. Campbell:** In view of the minister's reply to the question from the member for Kitchener, is she not concerned that so far the health units have ignored these invitations to meet? What does she propose to do to encourage, as she suggested, that they should meet?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, the invitations which the hon. member alludes to, I think, are the invitations from the Ontario Nurses Association. I hope the invitation from the ministry will not be ignored.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Mr. Speaker, to clarify that, I am referring to the invitation of the former deputy minister which was ignored by the health units. It's because of this that I want to know just what kind of encouragement there's going to be.

**Mr. Speaker:** Any further answer?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I can think of several. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Any further questions?

### ELECTION PROCEDURES

**Mr. Breithaupt:** A question of the Premier: In the light of the revelations with respect to the election procedures in the last provincial election in the riding of Dufferin-Simcoe, has the Premier come to any conclusion with respect to reviewing those revelations and is he intending to consider the possibility of referring them either to a committee of the House or perhaps to the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses for further comment?

**Mr. Nixon:** Of course, he is.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, I really haven't had any report on this matter yet.

**Mr. Lewis:** Supplementary: When the Premier does get a report, why doesn't he hold a by-election in Dufferin-Simcoe to test the mood of the province?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, I can only say to the Leader of the Opposition that if there were a by-election in that particular riding, his party would run third.

**Mr. Lewis:** All right. Then resign and try it.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** And what's more, Mr. Speaker, this party would run first.

**Mr. Lewis:** Resign and try it. Come on, we're just offering you a chance to test the electorate.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Lewis:** You said it about Carleton East; you said it about Cornwall; you said it about Huron-Middlesex—

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** How about your riding to test the electorate?

**Mr. Lewis:** Not a bad idea.

#### CO-OPERATIVE LOANS

**Mr. Williams:** Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. My understanding is that the Co-operative Loans Act has been in place for a number of years; since, I believe, the mid-1950s: Can the minister advise how relevant to the farm community today this legislation is in assisting the financing and construction of new facilities and financing expansion?

**Mr. Singer:** All those farmers in Oriole are vitally concerned with this.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It's difficult to hear. Thank you.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to hear. We do have the Co-operative Loans Act, and while I'm not exactly sure how much was paid out during the past year, I certainly will be tabling that report in the House, probably within the next month, and I'll be glad to send the member the details on this matter.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Why don't you talk to him?

**An hon. member:** I think your colleague is opposed to it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

#### HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

**Mr. Godfrey:** A question to the acting Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker. Will the minis-

ter assure the House that the closing of the Chedoke Hospital in Hamilton will not result in the closing down of the early breast cancer detection unit, consisting of thermography and mammography, in that hospital?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday we had meetings with representatives of the board of governors of Chedoke Hospital and with representatives of the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party. We have stated publicly that we are awaiting some indication and some direction from the health council of Hamilton regarding the proposed bed closures in Hamilton. When we have an opportunity to look at their recommendations, I'm sure we shall seriously consider sparing the unit which the hon. member mentioned.

**Mr. Cunningham:** By way of a new question to the acting Minister of Health: Recognizing the commitment that the minister made yesterday to have the Hamilton health council make this decision, I'm wondering if she would share with us, and through the House with them, the basis on which the criteria were made to close 87 beds at that hospital so that the citizens who are going to be making presentations and briefs might in fact address themselves to those arguments?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The criteria which were used were those which are used for all hospitals in all areas of the province—a relation between the numbers of patients at risk in that area and the numbers of beds which are considered to be rational for that population. The Hamilton district health council was asked to rationalize the bed numbers within the city of Hamilton, and the recommendation, which I gather was received, was this method of rationalizing that situation. That meant that two hospitals only were to be affected by the recommendations.

It has been proposed by certain members of the McMaster staff and certain interested citizens, such as the representatives of Hamilton, that indeed another method of prorating beds throughout the entire area might in fact be more satisfactory and this way may be one of the solutions which the Hamilton district health council proposes to us. We'll be very happy to hear any solution.

**Mr. Deans:** Supplementary: Am I to assume that the whole matter is to rest upon whether or not it should be pro-rated or whether we're going to apply it against Chedoke? Or am I right in thinking that there is some serious question about whether the closings might take place and are appropriate?



**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I said that pro-rating was one of the alternatives which might be considered.

[2:30]

### HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

**Mr. Deans:** I have a question for the Premier. What would he suggest I tell the people in Hamilton when they ask me—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Ready for the question?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Want to start over again?

**Mr. Good:** Tell them you are not running again.

**Mr. Riddell:** Resign.

**Mr. Lewis:** No, he doesn't want to start over again.

**Mr. Deans:** No, I don't want to start over again.

**Mr. Lewis:** Maybe you could try Cochrane North instead of Dufferin-Simcoe?

**Mr. Deans:** —when they ask me where they are going to find employment as a result of this government's actions? An example is as follows: As a result of the more recent cuts in terms of expenditures at McMaster and at Chedoke and at the psychiatric hospital, there will be 800 people, plus, out of work as a direct result of the government's actions, with little or no possibility of finding alternative employment. What will I tell them?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member knows very well what to tell them. In his work in his constituency I am sure he has spent a great deal of time, as the rest of us have from time to time, looking for job opportunities for the people he represents. I am sure the hon. member will continue to function in this fashion.

**Mr. Lewis:** Great stuff.

**Mr. Deans:** There were four or five jobs advertised at the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. and in excess of 200 people applied. There is not nearly a sufficient number of opportunities now for employment. These people are looking for work; the Premier is supposed to be the champion of work—

**Mr. Speaker:** The question, please?

**Mr. Deans:** Where do I send those people to find employment?

**Mr. Yakabuski:** Union halls.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) and the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) replied to this question some few days ago, if memory serves me correctly—

**Mr. Deans:** They did not.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** —and indicated that the Ministry of Labour was establishing a structure whereby these people who were affected would be given priority in terms of job relocation.

**Mr. Deans:** Two people hired so far.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, with great respect, only two people may have been hired so far because there have been very few people who at this moment are without their jobs.

**Mr. Deans:** Out of the psychiatric hospitals, two?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** If the hon. member would have some degree of understanding and appreciation and recognize one very basic fact—I am concerned about it; no one likes to see people without employment—we are not going to solve the economic problems of this province by following the philosophy of the party opposite—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** —which thinks that government should be totally responsible for the total employment programme in the province. It just cannot be done.

Interjection.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** They want me to hire everyone. They would hire everybody. They would have another 30 research assistants.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Lewis:** Have you calculated the unemployment insurance costs of your programme? Several million dollars.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Huron-Middlesex. Order, please.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The member for Huron-Middlesex.

## GUELPH ABATTOIR

**Mr. Riddell:** A question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker: Will the Premier direct a full public inquiry into the leasing of the Guelph Correctional Centre meat packing plant to Better Beef Ltd., in the light of the fact that another bid by F. G. Bradley Co. Ltd. would have paid the farmer creditors of the plant 100 cents on the dollar, instead of the Better Beef Ltd. offer of 15 cents on the dollar; and in the light of the fact that Better Beef Ltd. was convicted on 10 counts of fraud with regard to its operations two years ago; and in view of the fact that no official tenders were called and no official proposals were invited for this contract?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member for Huron-Middlesex would redirect his question to either the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) or the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith), he will get the appropriate answer.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Come on, you are the Premier of Ontario.

**Mr. Nixon:** They can't establish an inquiry.

**Mr. Speaker:** Do you wish to redirect the question? Order, please.

**Mr. Riddell:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Riddell:** Am I to assume—

**Mr. Speaker:** The question has been redirected, I believe, to the appropriate minister.

**Mr. Riddell:** Am I to assume that the Minister of Agriculture and Food can direct a public inquiry?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, I think it can be assumed the Minister of Agriculture and Food may have some facts which perhaps are not known to the hon. member and which might be helpful to him.

**Mr. Reid:** That is unlikely.

**Mr. Riddell:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to redirect the question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Do you want me to repeat it?

**An hon. member:** The Minister of Correctional Services.

**Mr. Nixon:** He is passing it down the line.

**Mr. Riddell:** As a supplementary then.

**Mr. Roy:** Right down the line.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We can't go all over the playing field now. If the question is supposed to be redirected—order, please—who is the appropriate minister in this case?

**Mr. Roy:** You send them all over the place. What are you talking about?

**An hon. member:** The Premier.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is it the Minister of Correctional Services?

**Hon. J. R. Smith:** I would draw the hon. member's attention to the statement which I made in this House at the time of the signing of the agreement with the DeJonge consortium of companies. I would just like to remind the hon. member that it is full public knowledge that we could find no legal way of paying the beef producers who are creditors of Essex Packers in full for the debts owed to them by that firm without making similar payments to the employees and other creditors.

Representatives of the Bradley group did have exploratory conversations with both myself and the Minister of Agriculture and Food. They were prepared to pay the 22 or 25 farmers in full for the bad cheques issued by Essex but we could find no legal way of doing this without giving the same equal consideration to all creditors.

**Mr. Riddell:** By way of supplementary, was the minister aware of the convictions of the DeJonge firm when he assigned the lease to that firm?

**Hon. J. R. Smith:** I made mention of this during the supplementary questions following my statement in the House.

**Mr. Roy:** It doesn't bother you then?

**Mr. Bullbrook:** What were the types of convictions they had?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Lewis:** Supplementary: Why is it not possible to pay the other creditors the amount owing to them rather than to seek to penalize just the farmers? They do it in other jurisdictions.

**Hon. J. R. Smith:** There was only one proposal received and accepted by the majority of the creditors. That was from the DeJonge Group and it was overwhelmingly accepted by the creditors—15 cents on the



dollar—and the majority of the beef producers who were creditors also voted to accept the offer of DeJonge.

**Mr. Gaunt:** I have a supplementary. Why was there no long-term commitment negotiated to keep the Hamilton plant open beyond the six-month period?

**Hon. J. R. Smith:** One of the matters about which I had a great deal of concern was to ensure the continuation of that plant. In fact there is no legal way this ministry can ensure that continuation. The only thing we had really was the good faith of the principals of the DeJonge consortium who laid on the line \$500,000 of their own assets as surety to pay the creditors through the bank.

#### NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Laughren:** I have a question for the Minister of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs. In view of the fact that the regional municipality of Sudbury is attempting to formulate its official plan which will determine the growth in the area for many years to come and would like to know what the plans of the government are for all of northeastern Ontario, when does the minister intend to table the report of northeastern development, phase 2?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Soon, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Laughren:** Could he be more specific?

**Mr. Deans:** Very soon.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The member should understand that we on this side of the House are living from day to day, not knowing what the third party is up to, so we don't like to put timetables on anything; but very soon.

**Mr. Lewis:** It is Rothmans legislative tennis tournament in Hamilton.

#### BRADLEY-GEORGETOWN HYDRO ROUTE

**Mr. Reed:** I have a question for the Minister of Energy. When is the minister going to study and document the whole Bradley-Georgetown corridor situation in accord with the position taken by the former Minister of Energy in November, 1974—Hansard, page 5265—where he said:

No route could be adequately justified unless the whole area was studied and documented.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I think the hon. member—and I am pleased that after six months he has awakened to this issue in that area—

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** I hear more about it than he does.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** —has taken it out of context. I will be glad to look at the total Hansard situation. The member will know that since I came into this ministry in January, 1975, there are very few issues that have occupied more of my time than that particular one.

**Mr. Gaunt:** You know better than that.

**Mr. Nixon:** What a marvellous record you have established! Hot air and baloney.

**Mr. Roy:** You are a flop and you know it.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** You are the Jack Nicholson of this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The member for Halton-Burlington may have one supplementary.

**Mr. Reed:** Is not the present minister's position, taken in June, 1975, authorizing a study of a portion of the Bradley-Georgetown corridor, totally inconsistent with that original position?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** We'll have to get you cue cards.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** In fact, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would take the time to read Hansard, to read the things that have been said in this House, in committee and in various other places over the last 15 months, he'd realize that the position I took in June, 1975, was the only responsible one that could be taken.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Oh, you are so self-righteous.

**Mr. Lewis:** Supplementary: Given the quite astonishing continued public support for the interested citizens' group that is forever in touch with the minister, the Premier and others, and given the express wish of the Environmental Hearing Board that a much broader inquiry be held—oh, yes—why doesn't the minister reconsider the position he has taken and satisfy the interested citizens on this rather important route? It could be done in three to six months.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, I suppose a year ago, if I had thought that was possible, I would have been agreeable to such a suggestion. Given the experience of the government with such commissions as its Solandt commission on the Nanticoke-Pickering and the Lennox-Oshawa lines, and the number of years involved, I didn't think that was possible. The hon. member will know, if he's talked to his representatives on the

select committee, that they've been provided with a variety of figures on the cost of delays.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition will recall, when I made the announcement on June 6, 1975, that he said in this House, and it is in Hansard, that it was the right thing to do. I was faced with trying to do as much as possible to satisfy the wants and the interests of the people involved in the interested citizens' groups while, at the same time, living up to my responsibilities to all of the Hydro customers in Ontario who have to pay for any delays which are considerable.

**Mr. Reed:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Singer:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Halton-Burlington has had one supplementary. The member for Huron-Bruce was on his feet earlier, I believe. Does he wish to yield to the member for Wilson Heights?

**Mr. Singer:** No, I have a new question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Oh. I think we'll get on with new questions. We're just about out of time. The member for Cochrane South (Mr. Ferrier).

**Mrs. Campbell:** Oh, come on. No way.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If I may, I was going to recognize the member for Huron-Bruce because he was on his feet earlier—

**Mrs. Campbell:** Then recognize him.

**Mr. Speaker:** —and I shall do so.

**Mr. Gaunt:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, thank you. Is the minister aware that two days of testimony with respect to the environmental hearing of the Bradley-Georgetown power line are missing?

**Mr. Breithaupt:** And they are all taped, by the way.

**Mr. Gaunt:** The tapes containing the two days' hearings are missing. Is the minister aware of that? If he is, where are the tapes?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, I wasn't aware of it, but if the hon. member has them, would he please return them to the Ministry of the Environment? They would appreciate it.

**Mr. Reid:** Hydrogate. Sidney's shredder works again.

Interjections.

## DREE-TEIGA AGREEMENT FOR TIMMINS AREA

**Mr. Ferrier:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Treasurer. I wonder if the Treasurer could report the status of the DREE-TEIGA development agreement, or sub-agreement, for the Timmins area? Can he tell us what the obstacles appear to be before getting that signed and when he expects it will be signed?

**Mr. Yakabuski:** The obstacles are the federal government and the local government.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Progress, I think, would be the answer to the member, Mr. Speaker.

## DRINKING DRIVERS

**Mr. Singer:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Provincial Secretary for Justice. Could he, in the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), tell us what, if anything, his secretariat is going to do about His Honour Judge Clendenning, who for a second time has announced he is going to send to jail everyone who comes before him and who is convicted of driving while their ability is impaired, even though the Criminal Code does not so provide and even though the Attorney General took a dim view of that and said so publicly?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, I am not in touch with this judge—and if I was I would do so with some trepidation—

**Mr. Yakabuski:** Phone him up.

**Mr. Deans:** Why don't you just phone him?

**Mr. Breithaupt:** Give him a call.

**Mr. Reid:** We have his number.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** —but I'm sure that the Attorney General is more used to speaking to judges than I am, and I'm sure he'll get the answer and give it to the hon. member for Wilson Heights.

**Mr. Singer:** By way of a supplementary, is the ministry prepared to refer this matter to the Ontario Judicial Council, because it's the second time it's happened with the same judge?

**Mr. Yakabuski:** No.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** I'll have to leave that up to the Attorney General, Mr. Speaker.

[2:45]



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Beaches-Woodbine asked this question:

The executive co-ordinator for women's programmes, in the report which was tabled last fall, drew attention to the fact that 38 per cent of the Ontario public service is women but there are no women managers in the civil service and only four per cent of the 778 civil servants designated as senior executives are women.

I would like to ask the Treasurer if he is prepared to implement the recommendations of that report that there should be specific and separate budgets in each ministry for affirmative action to correct this imbalance?

Actually, Mr. Speaker, I will have a further report later, but I should tell the hon. member that we have completed a programme involving the participation of approximately 600 women earning \$17,000 and over employed in specialist, technical, professional and administrative fields. The employees provided information on their career objectives and, together with assessments by deputy ministers, those with the potential and desire for advancement have been identified. The women, through this process, have been added to the senior management career planning inventory and are being considered for all vacancies at the branch director and senior executive level, and work along these lines will continue.

The recommendation referred to in the question is recommendation No. 12, and that recommendation was that ministries identify specific budgets in their estimates for the affirmative action programme. Actually, we indicated to all ministries that funds for promoting affirmative action must be found from the various standard accounts classifications which apply to each vote and item. The programme may be supported by funds from many sources in the ministry, particularly in the ministry personnel programme, including training and development. It is certainly desirable for each ministry to specifically identify the funds to be used to further the affirmative action programme at the beginning of each year.

It is proposed that recommendation No. 12 and the other 24 recommendations included in the report will be dealt with in detail by the cabinet over the next two or three weeks.

**Ms. Bryden:** Supplementary: May I ask the minister if there are any women managers in

the Civil Service Commission yet? The report said there was none.

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** Well, the one that would occur to me would be Elizabeth—she is in charge of the pension end. I'm embarrassed; she was before Management Board this morning, as a matter of fact, with some programmes—Miss Aboud.

## SOUTH RIDEAU DEVELOPMENT

**Ms. Gigantes:** Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Housing: In the light of the fascinating announcements by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) last week regarding the development of 6,000 acres at the South Rideau, I am wondering if the Minister of Housing can tell us if he has any secret arrangements, secret deals or secret understandings with the federal government—

**Mr. Singer:** And a corrupt one; secret and corrupt?

**Ms. Gigantes:** —that will permit the servicing of that area to the level of development that has been announced by his colleague?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Mr. Speaker, may I assure the hon. member and all members of this House, I have no secret deals with the federal government on anything.

**Ms. Gigantes:** I would like to know how the Ministry of Housing then proposes to service that area, when the services will have to go through the green belt and the federal government has made it quite clear that it does not approve of that development for good and sound planning reasons?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Mr. Speaker, I have had a number of discussions with the federal agency, the National Capital Commission, and also with the minister on the whole subject to which the hon. member is referring—none of which were secret, I might add, and I can produce the minutes of some of the meetings. As far as the servicing of that area is concerned, that is a matter we will have to discuss in some detail with the National Capital Commission; and we are not going to be held to ransom by them, I can assure members of that.

**Ms. Gigantes:** Supplementary: I wonder if the minister can tell us if he has any reason to believe that the federal government will permit servicing to that area?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Mr. Speaker, at the present time I would have to suggest that the National Capital Commission's position with me has been rather firm that they would not permit servicing to that area. But, like most agencies, I think they will bend and give a little.

**Mr. Lewis:** Better speak to Sidney Handleman and get headlines in the Ottawa Journal.

### MENTAL RETARDATION CENTRES

**Mr. Stong:** I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services. Is the minister aware of the apparent overcrowding situation at the Huronia Regional Mental Health Centre, wherein the residents, both male and female, are required to share the same living quarters and the same shower facilities?

Is the minister further aware that inquiries by parents of those residents have been met with inaction up to this time?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, I do not accept that statement as being factual.

**Mr. Haggerty:** He checked it out.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I know there is concern on my part and on the part of my staff in terms of taking the pressure off the larger institutions such as Huronia, Smiths Falls and so on. As a matter of fact, that was one reason for utilizing the Goderich facility as a schedule 1 facility, which would bring the residents closer to home. They are being selected from these institutions. That will have some effect on that. It will ensure more individual attention.

Insofar as response is concerned, any communication I have from concerned parents or relatives of patients in any of these institutions is given immediate response; if the member knows of any, I would be happy to receive those and see that they get my individual attention.

**Mr. Stong:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is the fact that the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) is closing down such institutions as Goderich going to overburden other institutions under this ministry?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, on the contrary: The fact the facility at Goderich became available enabled me instantly to utilize that for a schedule 1 facility which, as I mentioned, would take some of the residents

out of the larger institutions and ensure that they would have a different type of programming and more individual attention. It is a step forward in terms of taking the pressure off the larger institutions and getting the patients into the smaller community-based settings and eventually, of course, getting as many as possible into the community.

**Mr. Speaker:** The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

### PETITION

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the legislative rules I would like to present a petition, the opening of which begins as follows: "We the undersigned protest the drastic cutbacks proposed for the Great War Memorial Hospital of Perth and district."

There are several thousand names on this petition and I would like to file it with the Legislature, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Presenting reports.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough** tabled volumes 2 and 3 of the 1974-1975 public accounts. Volume 2, financial statements of Crown corporations, boards, commissions; and volume 3, details of expenditures.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motions.

Introduction of bills.

### MEDICAL DATA BANK ACT

**Mr. B. Newman** moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to establish a Medical Data Bank.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to establish a medical data bank in which would be stored in computerized form the medical histories of persons in Ontario who wish to participate in such a data bank. The proposed bank would be operated and maintained by the provincial Ministry of Health and every public hospital would have an outlet for medical histories of persons using the hospitals. Written consent of the person concerned would be required before the record is stored in the bank and the medical history could not be removed without the written consent of that person's legally qualified medical practitioner.



## SPEAKER'S RULING

**Mr. Speaker:** Before the orders of the day, I should announce that yesterday the Leader of the Opposition asked me to direct that a certain report must be tabled by the minister concerned. He showed me later that it was designated for rather wide distribution to boards and other bodies.

Order, please; order. There's too much background conversation. It's difficult to hear and be heard. Thank you.

However, this is beside the point, as the report was ordered by the ministry and there is no statutory or other order requiring it to be tabled in the House, it is completely outside my jurisdiction.

Another announcement: Pursuant to standing order 28(d), I wish to inform the House that the hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Stong) has filed the required notice under standing order 27(g) that he is dissatisfied with the answer given by the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) to his question concerning the freezing of land at the Pickering airport site, which was asked on March 17. This matter will be debated at 10:30 this evening.

Orders of the day.

**Clerk of the House:** The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE  
(continued)

**Mr. Angus:** I'd like to continue my remarks that I began last evening. I think it was appropriate that we broke when we did because an article in the Toronto Star of this morning has reiterated some of the comments that I made on Minaki Lodge and I would like, with your permission, sir, to continue to do so.

It seems that the Province of Ontario has spent approximately \$6.3 million—tax dollars—on the development of Minaki Lodge in the Kenora area of this province. They are two years away from completing that project, a project that came under great criticism from a number of members from the NDP in the last Legislature as well as members of the Liberal Party.

It's amazing that as it stands right now, with two years and \$2 million to go before anyone short of the watchman can even spend

a night in that facility, it's going to cost \$30,000 a month to maintain that facility. A facility, Mr. Speaker, that was designed with a golf course that was blasted out of rock and filled with Manitoba soil—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Order, please. There are too many side conversations going on. It's very difficult to hear the speaker.

**Mr. Angus:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes; the hon. member may continue.

**Mr. Angus:** A chalet, a ski hill, a heated swimming pool—incidentally, I discovered this morning that in constructing the facility around the heated swimming pool they used a type of foam insulation, assumedly chosen with the expertise of their consultants or their contractors, which they found shortly thereafter was not fire resistant and they had to scrape it off and replace it, at the taxpayers' expense. That, Mr. Speaker, was the result, I would assume, of the constant paying of the consultant's fee.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Could we carry on our side discussions in a somewhat lower voice please? Thank you. It's very difficult for the hon. member to be heard.

**Mr. Angus:** Let me try again, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order. Order, please.

The hon. member may continue.

**Mr. Angus:** In the July 10, 1975, interim report of the standing committee on public accounts, item No. 152, Northern Ontario Development Corp., concerns Minaki Lodge; I quote from the report:

The committee has found that a consultant's fee has been paid on a continuing basis for consultation services that have not been provided. It appears to be government practice that in sensitive negotiations with personnel, the government proceeds by paying a consultant's fee to the affected person.

Mr. Speaker, if the situation regarding the foam insulation sprayed in the pool area is any indication of the quality of the consultation provided, I would say that the government of Ontario should seek some kind of redress against the consultant, aside from terminating the agreement.

[3:00]

The original purchase price of Minaki Lodge was, I think—adding up the mortgage

that was assumed, plus a variety of expenses—somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$1.3 million. At that time the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett) indicated to this House, either in October, 1974, or April, 1974, that the cabinet had approved a maximum expenditure of \$5 million for the development of Minaki. It is quite obvious that it has spent that \$5 million because, if I can accept the report in the *Toronto Star* as correct, it has spent \$6.3 million; \$5 million since the purchase and \$1.3 million for the actual purchase.

That community of Minaki is a community of 300; the only school facilities are those up to grade 3. The remainder of the students have to be bused, approximately two hours a day, to the community of Kenora. How in the world can the government justify expending that kind of money on a facility the residents admit they will not use because it will cost \$30 a day at the minimum to utilize the facilities? They will never use it; most of the people in Ontario will never use it because it is geared for the elite, those with money.

I think if we look at the patterns of tourism in Ontario these days, people are not travelling far. They are travelling by car, they are not flying. They are travelling within their own geographic area. What geographic area is there around Minaki? Kenora, Grassy Narrows reserve—some of the more affluent communities of Ontario. They will never be able to afford it. Even those of the middle-class and the upper middle class who have that little bit of extra money to spend are not prone to driving. They are prone to flying for those kinds of things. And there is the expense of flying into Thunder Bay, then into Kenora and then driving to Minaki; or flying into Winnipeg and then to Kenora and driving. It won't happen.

I don't believe the Province of Ontario should be spending that kind of money in developing a facility which will be used only by a very small minority. The ministry went wrong initially when it assumed the mortgage. I think it had a certain responsibility to do so when the principal owners were unable to follow through with it but the first place where it went wrong was it didn't try to put it back on the so-called free enterprise market to find a Canadian buyer who had the expertise and private money to develop this facility for the elite.

I always chuckle every time various members of the government chastise us for wanting to own everything; to have everything government-run. I can see why, because their history of running things—private corporations

—has been interesting to say the least. It has almost been incompetent because they spend and spend and spend and they never get anything opened. Can anyone imagine having the ski facilities, the swimming pool, an area for dancing, dining room, commercial facilities and convention facilities ready yet nobody can stay there because they never got around to doing the rooms first? To me, that would be a logical way of approaching it.

The chairman of Minaki Lodge said, and I quote from this article, "How in the name of God can we announce another \$2 million expenditure when hospitals are being shut?" All I can do is echo that because it shows really where the government of Ontario is at and yet it spent \$6.3 million over the last two or three years.

**Mr. Foulds:** A white elephant.

**Mr. Angus:** That's money which could have been spent in providing, as I said last night, health and transportation for the communities of the north. It could be used for developing secondary industry—real secondary industry which relies on the resources presently being raped in the north and taken to southern Ontario or the United States or foreign countries. It could have been used to provide all sorts of amenities in the northern communities which would attract individuals and companies to the north to develop secondary industry.

It could also have been utilized to protect those facilities we already have in the north; those facilities which we need so badly. It might have been used to assist the community of Ignace—

**An hon. member:** Right on.

**Mr. Angus:** —before it came to the brink of financial disaster and in fact went into receivership with the Province of Ontario. That's the fiscal responsibility that the province has.

Also in the field of industry and tourism, I would like to refer to the Northern Ontario Development Corp. A constituent of mine came to me about two weeks ago with a real concern. It seems that he had applied to the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the Northern Ontario Development Corp. for funds to develop a metal fabrication industry in Thunder Bay.

The federal people were very quick to respond, approving an offer of \$42,000. As for the Northern Ontario Development Corp.—and I have a feeling it didn't even get as far as the corporation but was rearranged and stalled within the ministry itself—he was



told by NODC, "Sorry, but we can't fund this, because there is no market; you would go under." And yet within the course of three or four weeks there were two or three announcements in Thunder Bay of similar firms setting up shop.

If the ministry had been responsive as they would like us to believe, then this gentleman, who is a Thunder Bay resident who was prepared to develop a secondary industry that we need that has a market in northern Ontario—if the ministry had been responsive, he would have been able to do so. But no, they were sluggish; they procrastinated. He is in a situation now where possibly there is no remaining market, because other people have come in from outside and taken it up.

I noticed with interest a press release from the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, dated March 29 for immediate release. It relates to the signing of a sub-agreement between the federal Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and the Treasurer of Ontario, under the general development agreement between Canada and Ontario.

The sub-agreement provides assistance in providing service utilities and industrial sites in key urban centres in northeastern Ontario. It is designed to encourage recipient communities to capitalize on existing economic advantages and to help them play a more active role in the development of industrial land in the regional municipality of Sudbury and the district of Parry Sound.

Ironically, I received a copy of a letter that very same day from the mayor of North Bay. He had read in an article in the North Bay Nugget that the community was anxiously seeking provincial funding to develop an industrial park to provide a base for much-needed secondary industry in northern Ontario, particularly that area of northeastern Ontario. In his letter he said to me that they were most amazed because it was in my community, the city of Thunder Bay, on May 13, 1975, when the cabinet was parading around the Province of Ontario receiving briefs, that it was announced at a dinner for the former member for Fort William that a total of \$1.25 million was to be awarded as a grant for the city of North Bay to install basic facilities such as water and sewage pipes for an industrial park in that community. And yet in this announcement by the Treasurer yesterday there is no such announcement confirming that that in fact will happen.

It is obvious that the Province of Ontario has once again reneged on pre-election

promises, where they come out with fanfare, razzmatazz and what have you and say, "We are going to give all this money to all you people." In fact, in Thunder Bay that day they talked about a total of \$23,547,810. That's the Ontario share. Mr. Speaker, I really wonder how much of that will ever come to the people of Ontario.

In the north we have a communications problem. As we have mentioned in the House in the last week or so, we have some real concerns about the Ontario Educational Communications Authority. Having been one of the recipients of those infamous brown paper envelopes, I am very concerned about the attitude of the cabinet and the government of this land, that they have initially squashed a project which was costly to a certain extent—I don't believe it's that costly—but would provide the same type of educational opportunities and media services in the north as is now available in the "golden horseshoe."

They originally scrapped the idea of having transmitters in Sudbury and Thunder Bay to deliver OECA programming. It wasn't until there was very strong pressure from the community of Sudbury and the community of Thunder Bay and the surrounding areas, and until it was brought up in the House by our leader, showing that the kind of saving that was actually happening was a waste of money, that in fact it would cost \$903,000 in 1976-1977 to save \$503,000. The Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch) was very quick to contact OECA and ask them for another alternative and they provided him with one. I received a copy of that also, again in a brown paper envelope. I think we're discriminating against brown just because they don't make white envelopes that big.

However, the decision that has been made by the minister is that the microwave links which are very important, will be retained; and that the community of Thunder Bay and Sudbury will be able to receive OECA programming via the cable system. That's all well and good, except that in Thunder Bay at the present time only 60 per cent of the population have cable. Those are the haves, the people who can afford the extra \$5 a month for cable programming. It doesn't include the large number of people within the urban centre who can't afford cable, and it definitely does not include all the individuals in the surrounding area who would have been able to receive live transmissions from a transmitter and who do not have cable and who will never have cable in Thunder Bay, northwestern Ontario.

In the city of Sudbury they're still a year away from cable. I would guarantee that it

would be two or three or four years before the residents of Sudbury even come up to the 60 per cent figure that we have in Thunder Bay, and it won't provide service to the other areas. It won't allow for communities like Ignace or Atikokan to pick up the OECA signal via live air transmission.

While we feel it's a step forward in terms of the cable system, it's not good enough. If this is the province of equal opportunity, then we should have the educational programmes that are being produced with our money. I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, we don't get any reduction in our tax dollars up north because we don't have OECA programmes. In fact, I would strongly suggest that we are heavily subsidizing the programming for the south, as is the case with almost everything that happens in north-western Ontario.

I came upon one little figure on taxation that was within some confidential documents related to the Design for Development. While it's out of date, in that it was a figure that was applicable four years ago, approximately 60 per cent of the tax dollars that were taken out of northern Ontario were returned there. So 40 per cent of our tax dollars have gone to the south and we don't get any benefit whatsoever from that.

[3:25]

Another area that my colleagues from northern Ontario and I are very concerned about is the experimental Canadian communication technology satellite, commonly called CTS, that will shortly be in use as a means of studying the effects of satellite communications for Canada, particularly for the northern regions. It may allow individuals all over northern Ontario and all over northern Canada to receive television signals and radio communications in their homes even if they are not within the 60-mile radius of a ground station.

Lakehead University has been asked to participate, along with OISE, in doing the research study into the effectiveness of satellite educational programming as opposed to cable educational programming, as opposed to ground transmitter educational programming, as opposed to videotape packaged programming. The results of their studies, if and when it is ever funded and comes about, can open up whole new fields in the north. Teachers in northern reserves, in northern communities, would have instant access to new programming and new concepts in education. Government officials, whether provincial or federal, would have continuous

contact with the more knowledgeable—and that's in quotes—south.

So I urge that the Province of Ontario consider funding this very valuable study, because if we don't study it now we may never get quality education and services in the north.

I spoke briefly last night about Ignace and I mentioned it today. We all know—at least, we in northern Ontario know, and I think the hon. Treasurer has some indication of what is happening in the community of Ignace, or the legal term, the corporation of the township of Ignace. At that cabinet meeting in Thunder Bay, Ignace came to the cabinet, to the Treasurer, and spoke about its problems and spoke about how difficult the situations were because of the mine to the north of it, the Mattabi mine on the shores of Sturgeon Lake, that it so dearly wanted to annex in order to get the much needed industrial tax assessment, but the ministry said no. The ministry at that time refused to give them any extra funding in terms of providing needed infrastructure required to develop accommodation and services for that major influx of mine workers, because Ignace was a bedroom community.

We have seen in the past communities like Elliot Lake, which have expanded greatly and then turned into ghost towns almost overnight. It goes to show you, Mr. Speaker, how much the government of Ontario listens to the people in the north, because the township of Ignace warned the province on May 3, 1975, that they were in financial trouble, and it was in August or September or October that Ignace went into receivership. Six months of frustrating time for the councillors; six months of worry; they didn't know what was going to happen to their community. They are still expanding. They need more schools, they need more services, they need everything, and they don't have the money to buy it. They don't have the money to build it, and yet the people keep moving in. So I don't think the history of the Ontario government in the north is very commendable.

There is a sort of feeling in northern Ontario that the province down here doesn't know what it's really like up there—what the weather's like, what the geography is like, and what the problems are. I would like to relate one particular case that I have been dealing with, and it relates to the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

There is a woman in my riding—a very elderly woman, somewhere in her 70s—in a



slightly ill condition; she is susceptible to pneumonia. She's on general welfare assistance and receives a supplement from the ministry. She lives in her own home and under the ministry regulations they can provide for certain renovations in order to keep the home a healthy and safe place to reside in. All last winter, last winter being the 1974-1975 winter, this woman suffered hardship because of the condition of her furnace. It was operating at something near 20 per cent or 30 per cent capacity. There were many times she found she had to leave the home during severe cold weather to go to a neighbour's to warm up.

I remind members this is a woman who has suffered from pneumonia a number of times, aside from the fact of her age. She approached the ministry through her case worker and applied to get a new furnace. Initially she tried to get her furnace converted from oil to gas so that it would be cheaper and be done much quicker but because of the type of furnace she had it was not possible.

She applied in early spring and had continuous discussions with the ministry people in Thunder Bay and on her behalf they applied to the central office in Toronto. They agreed with her needs. They would agree that she had to have a new furnace because she couldn't survive.

In November, I got a call from her saying that she had heard nothing; that the ministry people in Thunder Bay kept waiting and waiting for an answer from their co-ordinators in Toronto. I intervened; I wrote the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor), and asked him to intercede and I would like to thank him publicly because he did. He expedited the decision to approve the installation of a new furnace; fine, we figured, great.

The woman was asked to get two quotes and she did and submitted them to the ministry. Lo and behold, it took quite a while to get approval, even though the minister already said okay. We went back to the minister and shortly thereafter we received approval but because of the length of time it took, we were now into winter in Thunder Bay, and winter in Thunder Bay is not Toronto weather. We have consistent 30 below zero weather for week after week.

The furnace company told this woman, "To put in a furnace is going to take five days so you have to move out." I'm not sure what they wanted her to do with her plumbing or her food stuffs but they said that was the only way they could do it because there

would be no heat in that house for five days. The ministry, in its wisdom, would not provide her either with temporary heating or temporary accommodation in order that her furnace could be replaced in mid-winter.

As it stands now, when we are starting into the thaw even though we still have three or four feet of snow on the ground, that woman is still living in a house which has a furnace which should have been replaced a year ago. It's that kind of unfeeling attitude of the Ministry of Community and Social Services that we on this side of the House find so distasteful.

The Ministry of Housing is an amazing group in Thunder Bay and all across the province. The chairman of the Ontario Housing Corp., Emerson Clow, in Thunder Bay a month or two ago for the opening of two senior citizens apartment buildings, lashed out at people in our community who had the foresight to object to buildings which were incompatible with their neighbourhoods. It seems that OHC's fascination with big buildings in concentrated areas was distasteful to the residents of Port Arthur riding and the residents of my riding. Some have been successful in getting the size of the buildings reduced. Mr. Speaker, they're not against senior citizens, as the chairman of the Ontario Housing Corp. would like people to believe, but they're against the way that OHC does things—the style and the attitude.

One of the property acquisition directors of OHC had the audacity two weeks ago to attempt to blackmail the council of the city of Thunder Bay. I realize that's a harsh word, but the city of Thunder Bay had refused to grant a zoning change to OHC on a piece of property that they purchased without a conditional agreement relating to the zoning change. It was property owned by the YWCA of the former city of Port Arthur, in an area where the senior citizens did not want accommodation and in an area where the residents did not want a large building because they had already seen the undue influence of a large highrise only half a block away. They were very distressed and they fought it.

They fought it and won, and yet Ontario Housing Corp. had the audacity to go to city council and say to them, "We will not approve any more OHC units of any kind in this city until you make that zoning change." That is not the way that a government agency should be operating, because the people who made the decision not to rezone were the elected representatives of the city of Thunder Bay, people from all parts of the city; and, I must add, a group that was not



prone to citizen involvement and citizen objection.

When Mr. Clow spoke to the senior citizens at those two openings, it was as if he was blaming them, the senior citizens, and chastising them because other people in the community had objected to a building. It's like a mother scolding her children because they have told her a story about what somebody else has done and they get heck for it.

In my riding, the same situation has occurred. In our community, we have a nursing residence, Patterson Hall Nursing Residence, attached to the McKellar General Hospital, and it has been vacant for two years. It's a fairly large facility, which could accommodate a large number of individuals. I asked Ontario Housing to do an assessment of that facility to see whether it could be used for senior citizens' living units, student housing or any other type of housing, because we have a very severe situation in Thunder Bay. He did; he had somebody assess it and they sent me a copy. The report was interesting, not so much for what it said, but what it didn't say. The report forgot to mention one whole wing of the nurses' residence. The report forgot to mention the slight difference of elevation between the ground and the elevator, which is approximately 5 ft; and when you're looking at it in terms of senior citizens' accommodation, whether it be for mobile senior citizens or not-so-mobile senior citizens, then you darn well look at where the elevator is.

We asked them to look at it in terms of the cost of conversion, and their report was that it was expensive to convert. Well, that's fine. We didn't think it was going to be very cheap. It's a sound building. But they did not compare the cost of conversion of that facility to the cost of constructing a new facility to take care of a similar number of residents.

So I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that I believe the Ontario Housing Corporation is one group in this province that should be eliminated, because it has never done and will never do the kind of job that is needed in terms of providing housing for certain sectors of our communities.

[3:30]

There is another item I'd like to refer to, because I would anticipate that had the former member for Fort William been more successful in the last election, we might have had another big government announcement in Thunder Bay. What I relate to is the winter sports training centre that is presently under design in Thunder Bay. This is an Olympic facility. The proposal is that it be

paid for by the Province of Ontario yet used by all Canadians to develop our athletes. It will be utilized by a very few individuals; in fact, I would suggest that there'll be only half a dozen from northwestern Ontario who would use it.

If the former member for Fort William was still here, he'd undoubtedly be spending millions and millions in that riding to build this kind of facility, when, at the same time, as I mentioned last night, we closed 107 hospital beds and 122 psychiatric beds. I look at some of the articles and pamphlets that came out of the last election sort of in retrospect, and I look at the kinds of things that have been done in the province since Sept. 18.

The slogan that was used by the former member for Fort William was "progress, not promises." The progress that he related to was big government buildings in places where nobody wanted them or they weren't any good. Believe it or not, he talked about 100 chronic beds. He talked about a health lab and about the progress that he had brought to us. Little did we believe in our wildest nightmares that the former member's government would turn around after the election and cut 1,200 hospital beds, or whatever the number is, and eliminate 5,000 jobs and close health labs. It's amazing.

There is no question whether we in the New Democratic Party support the government or not in the Throne Speech; we cannot support it because everything it has done has been against our grain. It has been against the grain of the people because people believe that services are necessary for their health, their welfare and their well-being. I can't conceive of any more illogical method of doing things, particularly in the light of the fact that most of the decisions were made before this House resumed and that none of us had a true opportunity to debate and vote on those decisions. So on Monday next when we rise to vote I will be happy to vote against the government of Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: I know we are all very glad indeed to hear that the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) is improving and is on his way to making a good recovery. It may be, however, that it will be some weeks before he will be able to resume his full responsibilities in this House. In the meantime, I wanted to address a few remarks to the acting Minister of Health who, according to the speaking list, will perhaps be participating in this debate this afternoon.



I think that members on all sides are very much impressed at the ability of the hon. member for York Mills (B. Stephenson). Her answers in question period, particularly during the last two days when she has been acting Minister of Health as well as Minister of Labour, indicate that she has a good grasp of the information that is available to her.

There is always a feeling on this side that, while you may not agree with her answers, she will give you one and there will be not too much fencing and fooling around. I must say that as a new minister she has made an excellent impression indeed and, since as acting Minister of Health she may have a good deal of continuing responsibility for decisions associated with this ministry, I wanted to speak very briefly for her benefit, as well as anyone else who might want to listen, about some decisions that will face her within the next few days.

I've had the impression, in listening as carefully as I could to her answers to questions from a number of members about the future of the hospital closings, that some further consideration is being given. I believe the alternatives that have been put forward by delegations from the communities concerned are being seriously considered and not in fact just being fenced off until the actual closing dates come along and the order from the ministry is given and, of course, must be obeyed. I hope very sincerely that as she shares this responsibility with the Minister of Health, there will be brought to bear some new thinking and perhaps some new comprehension of the meaning of these closings in the communities concerned.

May I assure you, Mr. Speaker, it's not my intention to review for you the situation pertaining in general, but simply to bring to her attention and to other members, the matter which is my chief responsibility and that is concerning the Willett Hospital in Paris. Very briefly, sir, I will tell you that this hospital, serving the community of 6,000, was established at the initiative of the local citizens back in the 1920s, built on land given by the Willett family.

All of the additions have been specifically approved by the Ministry of Health over these years. I am sure you are aware, sir, that there is a continuing debt associated with the debentures for the latest addition, so that if, in fact, the government proceeds to close the hospital, the ratepayers in Paris must continue to pay off their financial commitments for some years to come. I think, however, sir, that the need for maintaining these facilities in the local community is well

accepted by most people, but I want to approach it just for a moment or two on another basis.

Because there have been a number of alternatives presented to the ministry, and the acting Minister of Health I presume will eventually now have to make the final decision, I would hope that she is aware that the need for chronic care facilities in the Brant-Brantford area, and particularly in Paris, is undoubted. While the people on all sides of this House are prepared to give reasonable support to the government in its efforts to cut costs where it is possible to do so, no one believes that it would be efficient or reasonable to, in fact, board up that building. It is a building with modern facilities. If it is not needed, in the wisdom of the Ministry of Health, as a full active treatment hospital, surely it would be the worst kind of false economy, a punitive decision directed against the community, if it were closed up in entirety and simply boarded up and left there, as some facilities in Toronto have been over recent years. I would urge her consideration and the consideration of other members in the House to see the view of the local community who, I suppose, are prepared to accept a much lower level of service although they feel that this, too, is a mistake, but they are certainly not prepared to accept the closing up of the facility in total.

I do not want to spend a lot of time on this. As I have said, it has been debated repeatedly here in the presence and with the participation of the Minister of Health, but I felt that since the decisions may now have passed in part to another individual and another train of thought will be brought to bear, I want to express in the strongest possible terms my feelings that the facility must at the very least be maintained as a chronic care facility, hopefully with emergency and outpatient provisions and with an ambulance service as well. I believe this can be done with a substantial saving of money.

It's regrettable that the community, which has taken the initiative and paid for most of these developments themselves, will go without an active treatment hospital. As we approach the deadline of April 1, or the time immediately following April 1, when final decisions will be made, it is my strong expectation and certainly my hope that the ministry is not serious when it says that the facility will be closed completely. That is one alternative which, in my view, is not a rational one and not one which should be considered further by the acting Minister of Health or anyone else.



I must say I hope that when the member for York Mills participates in this debate she will be expressing some of her own views in this connection. This is a general debate, where I feel that all of us have the responsibility to represent some of the situations in our own constituencies which are of emergent importance for our own people and for our own taxpayers. I would, in expressing this hope, point out to you, sir, that the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) entered the debate yesterday and, instead of indicating some of his personal views having to do with the responsibilities in his ministry, took a good deal of time in this House to attack in a most strange and, in my view, irresponsible way the activities of the democratically-elected municipal councils of the townships of March and Nepean. Perhaps he felt that for political reasons he had to do that since his own seat is anything but secure and who knows when an election will face us in the minority situation we have in this House at the present time. I felt it was extremely improper—in fact, uncalled for—for the minister to attack the decisions of the democratically-elected councils of the areas within his own constituency.

**Mr. Kennedy:** What happened in caucus this morning?

**Mr. Nixon:** It should surely be his responsibility to support them rather than to attack them in such a political and irresponsible way. I tell the House I would have been much happier and much better served, along with the other members of this House, if the minister had picked up on that section of the Speech from the Throne which had to do with the problems associated with the alcohol situation, the booze situation, in the Province of Ontario which face all of us as members of this House. I'll tell members that this is probably the single most pressing problem that faces us not just in this jurisdiction but, I suppose, across Canada and elsewhere.

I want to say something quite specific about it, along with my colleagues and others, because this is surely where we must discuss it and where we must come to the best possible conclusion, by way of regulation, and expressions of policy and legislation.

The minister did not deal with this except in a very peripheral way. The reference in the Speech from the Throne is simply an oblique one which makes some comment about the problems faced in this province and that the government is going to introduce legislation which will, in effect, bring about some solution. Of course, we know that

that is not possible. There are no easy solutions to the problem. But, certainly, we must examine it as carefully as we can and together, as members of the House, work out the best alternatives that are available to us.

In the last year we have been treated to new legislation, revisions of the Liquor Licence Act and liquor control legislation. At the time I felt that the reviews themselves were taken in a rational way. There were several ministers involved and they asked for input not only from members of this House but from organizations and individuals across the province. But when the new bills came forward I felt they were very inadequate indeed.

A review of procedures for decisions of the Liquor Licence Board and the Liquor Control Board would, of course, always be acceptable, particularly since in recent months and years some of these decisions have seemed to be undemocratic, certainly, and not in the best interests of the situation as most of us perceive it.

Not only do we now have new legislation but we have new personnel directing the administration of the regulations. We have a new chairman of the Liquor Licence Board; a new chairman of the Liquor Control Board. It's big business in this province, I'm sure you're aware, Mr. Speaker. On the markup alone we expect to net more than \$300 million and, of course, this does not include the sales tax which is put on at the retail level. We are, of course, concerned with the imposition of many other taxes. At the federal level it is a very heavily taxed commodity.

In my view, it is not heavily taxed enough but the concept that many people have is that this particular government is simply in the liquor business and the more money it gets out of it the better it is for the government as far as meeting problems and difficulties with the budget is concerned. It is obviously big business. The government, through the Liquor Control Board, builds its own stores. It hires its own personnel. It buys the raw materials cheap, waters them down and marks the product up, sells it dear and then taxes it at 10 per cent.

**Mr. Breithaupt:** It's called free enterprise.

**Mr. Nixon:** My hon. friend said that's called free enterprise.

**Mr. Drea:** You are wrong; we buy it watered down.

[3:45]



Mr. Mancini: Frank should know.

Mr. Nixon: You don't water it down, Frank?

The statistics on consumption are rather frightening, particularly when we see what has happened to the consumption of alcoholic beverages by people under the age of 21. I personally supported the lowering of the drinking age to 18 and I am still not convinced that it should be raised. There have been many people saying it should be raised at least to 19 on the basis that most young people leave high school at the age of 18 and they are not going to be of a legal drinking age at least until they are out of high school.

I think that raising the drinking age to somewhere beyond 18 will undoubtedly lead to more law-breaking. If anything, the drinking age in the community—and I am not talking about the regulations—has been dropping very rapidly indeed, and the indications that have been made available to us by the Addiction Research Foundation and others show very clearly that the drinking age is sinking well below 18 and is now into the 16-year-old and 15-year-old age groups and, I suppose, even lower than that.

I really don't believe that this trend has been caused by the action of this Legislature in reducing the drinking age to 18. I think rather it has been a changing perception of drinking in the whole community. You may recall, Mr. Speaker, perhaps five years ago, when we as members of this House, let alone as parents, were almost panicky about the non-medical use of drugs and marijuana in this province. There was a feeling that there was some kind of an underground revolution in which the members of the House had very little understanding. We were prepared to vote tremendous additional sums to the Addiction Research Foundation in the hope that by making this money available hiring the best of brains and co-ordinating them in the most effective way, some kind of research would come up with an answer. Such an answer was not forthcoming, but I think this feeling of almost panic in the community in this particular way has had its effect.

There is a clear indication that the young people reaching the age where they are interested in these mood-altering drugs have lost some of their interest, particularly in the chemical drugs, and to some extent their interest even in experimenting with and using marijuana, because of the general feeling in the community that liquor is okay, it is generally accepted, it is sold through government

stores, everybody in the family uses it and it is advertised heavily in every part of the media that anybody observes.

In my view the movement away from the non-medical use of drugs and even of marijuana has been toward alcohol and this, more than anything else, has been the reason for the frightening statistics associated with alcohol.

I can remember the debate perhaps five years ago when we were asked to vote additional moneys for the Addiction Research Foundation. The view was expressed by myself and others that in reading the researches done by the Addiction Research Foundation it was quite clear that some researchers felt that alcohol, compared with even some of the drugs, let alone marijuana, was far more destructive to the individual socially and physically, than even marijuana. This did not indicate that anybody in this House felt that marijuana should be legalized, but it simply was an indication that everybody realized how destructive and terribly damaging the uncontrolled use of alcohol was and is.

When we see the statistics, particularly associated with teenage drinking, and the number of automobile accidents involving people who are impaired, particularly young people under the age of 21, I do not feel that we should immediately assume that the most serious error we made was in reducing the legal age to 18. Obviously this extended the drinking age much more readily to many young people who were not accustomed or prepared to break the law. But I do believe that if we attempt to correct that by moving it upward, we will find that there will be a tremendous problem of enforcement.

I was reading in the newspapers only today that the people who own licensed premises have a terrible problem in policing even the 18-year-old age limit that we have established through the powers that we have in this House. It is very easy for young people—younger than 18—to secure sufficient identification to satisfy the bartender.

I believe that the Liquor Licence Board is being as severe as it can. When its inspectors find an under-age individual in a licensed premise, then the owner of the premises is in very serious trouble indeed. The licence is often revoked or at least suspended for a period of time. So I believe the Liquor Licence Board is acting as strongly and as effectively as it can, but it is very difficult on the part of the bartenders representing the owners, the people acting in this capacity, to simply decide who has a legal right to be there and who has not a legal right to be there.

Frankly, I think these identification cards that are available from the board are a good thing. I have an 18-year-old son and I was quite surprised when he decided that he better send away for one of those identification cards. I was a little shocked, to tell you the truth, being a product of the old school, but I can remember perhaps attempting something like that before I was 21—to tell you the truth, and since the statute of limitations now protects me probably from prosecution. So I wouldn't say that it's an entirely unnatural thing to happen.

To say "All you have to do is enforce the law," we know that that is not going to work unless we have certain tools to make the enforcement of the law practicable, so I have great misgivings about talking about the requirement of identification. Most people, certainly young people age 17 and 18, have some identification—driver's licence and so on—but it seems to me that if we are going to assist the Liquor Licence Board and the tavern-keepers to enforce the law, then I personally have no objection to those identification cards which are of a type which simply can't be passed around the table so that the whole thing is simply a joke.

The enforcement of the age limit has really very little to do with the problem that we have, because the drinking begins younger than that, and you know it if your kids are out in the community. Certainly we all know it. It is much more difficult to come up with some kind of a rational solution. There isn't any solution, but I will tell the House this, and I have said it before and others have too, that the advertising of beer, particularly on television, and liquor in the print media has obviously got a tremendous influence on the attitude of young people. I have said this before and others have as well, we are usually treated by return mail to a lengthy defence, almost a vituperative defence from the representatives of the advertising industry saying their statistics show that advertising does not enlarge the market, it simply—what is the phrase?

**Mr. Singer:** Concentrates?

**Mr. Nixon:** No. It has to do with varieties; that is, they are going to get people to stop drinking Golden and start drinking Blue or whatever it is. I really cannot accept that. I believe that we must not accept the judgement of the advertising industry in this connection.

If this House continues to permit beer and liquor advertising when we know the problems that are caused by the consuming

public, including all of us, then we are being seriously irresponsible and derelict in our duty. It is often the government which will agree with the fact that the problem is there but the spokesman for the ministry—and they change from time to time—will say, "We agree with you, but what can you do? We have no control over the mails, we really don't control television" and that sort of thing.

But I do believe that this jurisdiction, by a statement of our policy in this connection and doing what we can, urging it to the other leaders at the provincial level, urging the co-operation of the government of Canada, can achieve something in this connection. There's no doubt that the beer advertising on television is probably the best advertising one will see. It is not offensive, but the emphasis really is very clear, and that is that if you are going to be a part of modern, vibrant, beautiful, healthy young life, then beer is the answer. I am not a teetotaler, I should say to you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Drea:** You have already confessed.

**Mr. Kennedy:** You have clarified that.

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, I thought perhaps I should make that clear, but I will tell you there's no reason for us to permit this kind of continuous insidious pressure, on young people particularly, which simply identifies the use of beer, much more than anything else, with the good life. I really believe that we must take steps to stop it. I've heard people from all parties say that we should do this and I would suggest to you, sir, that this is something that simply has got to be undertaken.

The second part of it, in my view, has got to be in a programme of education. We have this sort of thing in the schools now but I believe it must be much more effective. I don't think it has to be on the basis of the kind of education that perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you got in Sunday school—and I did; you know, the worm in the glasses of alcohol. I actually had that; you perhaps know what I mean. Somebody says actually the lesson is if you drink booze, you don't have worms.

But I tell you, sir, that with modern educational systems, presenting the factual aspects of this problem, the young people are at least going to have a balance to the attractiveness of the use of alcoholic beverages and a real warning as to what happens with their immoderate use.

There have been those that have said that, if we're going to allow advertising to con-



tinue in magazines and on television, there should be equal time showing the real effects of alcohol and what it does do to the mentality and the personality and ability of the individual. Believe me, all of us know just exactly how offensive and disastrous this can be.

I've stated my views on this advertising business and education. There's another matter pertaining to this that I want to discuss as well. Whether you know it or not, Mr. Speaker, there are still many municipalities in this province where alcoholic beverages cannot be legally sold. In my constituency, there are a number. We have a programme that sort of traditionally developed here over the years called local option. Many members represent areas where this is an archaic thing and have come under the jurisdiction of the Liquor Licence Board. There are applications for licensing certain premises and if individuals feel that that is not a good thing they can express their views in opposition and a board, subject to appeal and review, makes the decision for the benefit of the community as a whole.

But in these dry townships, as you know, Mr. Speaker, a vote is taken after a petition or on the decision of the local municipality and the campaigns—sometimes very hot campaigns—go forward and the people decide whether the township is to be wet or dry. These votes are going forward all the time. The Clerk of the House, who is also the chief electoral officer, has the responsibility of supervising those. He would be about able to tell us and his report indicates that many of these townships vote dry regularly. I have the honour to represent a number of them which do.

I also have the problems, as the local member, of meeting with the young people from the smaller communities in the dry townships, young people who, if they're going to have a beer with their friends, have to get in their car or borrow their dad's car, and drive to a nearby town, have a few beers. On the way home, they may get into trouble and they may be charged with impairment. Somebody else has made the decision that these kids are not going to have the right to drink in their own area and so they have to drive somewhere else, with the problems that I have just described. I'm not sure that's the reason why everybody should vote yes rather than no, but it is one of the things that many people who are so dedicated against the use of alcoholic beverage in moderation perhaps don't think of.

I'll tell you also, Mr. Speaker, that many things have changed in the community since

you and I were perhaps more independent in our activities, let's say, in the community. When I say to my son: "Why don't you go to a show?" he says: "It's \$3.50 a ticket, the popcorn is 60 cents, and I can't afford to take my girl to the show. We go over to a very nice place, very well kept, and have a couple of beers."

It's a little shocking, to tell you the truth. He doesn't think it's shocking. He thinks actually to go to the show is \$7, or \$10 if you want popcorn as well. It's a very big undertaking, whereas they can go and chat with their friends in very nice surroundings actually and, as long as they have learned moderation—and I hope to God they all have—under our laws there is nothing wrong with this. We have to realize that that part of the community is perceived differently.

[4:00]

There is another change in the community. I don't know but I suppose the community of Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, which has a number of these dry townships, is not too much different from others. I can remember, even five years ago, if you went to the Paris Agricultural Hall, which is a very fine building put up by the local citizens with some assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and anybody suggested that a bar be a part of the meeting, it was just unheard of; unthinkable. That's changed in the last five years. In the most recent renovation to the Paris Agricultural Hall, a bar has been built right in and, believe me, it is long enough so that they can have four or five bartenders in case it gets busy there. There are still people who, very properly, are quite offended at this but in general the perception of and the acceptance by the community has changed dramatically.

I'll tell members that I know personally of people of rather mature years who always felt that the use of alcoholic beverages was somehow fairly closely associated with sin. I mean that most sincerely. They have changed their attitude and I wouldn't make any comment about the enthusiasm of their new approach to this but let us say it is an entirely new perception. The habits of the community and the perception of the use of alcoholic beverages have changed dramatically over the last few years.

I have mentioned in this House before that there seems to be a certain cyclical aspect to this because in the early days, back in the middle of the 19th century before the legislatures and the governments of the day felt that they had to use their powers to control this, certainly the community was anything



but dry. In the little village of St. George near our farm, with a population of 1,000, records show that there were a number of distilleries in operation right there.

The farmers, I am told, would look forward to driving their children to school in the democrat so that they could fill up a couple of honey pails at the local distillery and go home and work hard and still be refreshed during the day. I suppose, under our standards, the country was full of alcoholics.

They were hard-working alcoholics, I suppose. Metabolism being what it is and with the exigencies of providing for big families and doing work without the benefit of all sorts of machinery probably they didn't suffer too much—but there was a lot of suffering and history records this. That's why, particularly, the Methodist Church and others were so successful in preaching about the demon rum, the destruction of the family and the association with sin because it came from the teachings of the church.

It led to a very strong turn of the wheel so that many of these communities used the availability of the various statutes to decide that in their area drinking would be illegal. There are many cases showing that in one generation people would go from a very free and easy use of liquor—locally distilled rotgut undoubtedly because there wasn't any of this 10-years-aged-in-wood business, I'll tell you that—by almost all members of the family to a complete cut-off so that everybody was teetotal. The admission that anybody in the community drank was almost unthinkable. Very gradually, of course, and now not so gradually in the last five years, the wheel is making another turn indeed and we have gone back to a completely different attitude.

I just want to point out this: Associated with this changing attitude has been a change in the attitude of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations or, particularly, the Liquor Licence Board which is directly responsible to this House through the ministry. Back in the days, I believe, when Mr. Robarts was Premier, the custom of permitting special occasion permits in these areas seemed to expand. It was, of course, clear that in townships which were dry the sale of alcoholic beverages was and is illegal. There is no question about that. Yet a certain custom was established that one could ask for a permit, and even though if one read it carefully it certainly said there is no sale permitted in these agricultural halls, and particularly in the community centres—and

most communities have them now with the assistance of the government of Ontario but largely with money raised through their own efforts—there is built up a custom of community parties of the very finest type.

The financial benefit of these parties is usually directed toward sports activities. In our own community of St. George, frankly, a very fine hockey league of many levels has been financed this way. The community finances it in this way with some alacrity, and all on the basis of special occasion permits. I have from time to time said to the people: "I am not the policeman, I am not the judge, but I am aware of what the law is, and the law says you can't sell liquor with these permits."

It certainly has been established in the community, not only in my area but elsewhere; and that's really the way it has been established. But all of a sudden last November the word came out that there would be no more permits. They phoned the member. They phoned this member. I don't know whether anybody else got phone calls but it was really something.

Sure everybody wants to stop the immoderate use of alcohol, but surely nobody is saying that the moderate use on the community level, on the basis of which the community is accepting it, should be outlawed all of a sudden by somebody reinterpreting some regulation that has nothing apparently to do with this House at all.

I know there were impassioned pleas. The reeve and a delegation from the township would travel all the way down to the Liquor Licence Board to find out directly what was wrong with this. They came back with the same answer that we got from everybody: "That's it, buddy, there will be no liquor in that township because you voted dry."

The thing is, Mr. Speaker, also, that there has to be, by law, three years between votes; and as a most careful examination of the legislation that I have been able to undertake and the best advice available to me is that there is no way out of that. Many of these areas had a vote just last year—and frankly I voted yes, but when you put your pencil beside that all of the lessons from Sunday School come on you. I was able, I guess, to overcome it, but a majority were not, mostly because they could have the satisfaction of voting no and having all the booze they wanted anyway.

Really, I just think that kind of a law has got to be an anachronism and from my point of view I just think it ought to be kicked



right out, and the responsibility of the Liquor Licence Board expanded with all of the review procedures made available. I know it is a foundation of Toryism that local option must never be interfered with in any way, even though they have amended the bill time and again. If it's a private club and one has the money to belong to a private club one can go there any time. One can take guests and sign them in at any time and be served in very fine surroundings.

**Mr. Ruston:** Or a tourist area.

**Mr. Nixon:** The next amendment was if it was a designated tourist area, it doesn't matter whether the local township votes dry or not, a licence is available. That is called the Talisman amendment, I believe.

That great, marvellous ski resort, which is the corporate headquarters of the Tory Party I understand, had a little problem getting a local township to see eye to eye with their view of modern development and it took an amendment to the liquor Act in order to fix it so that the people in the Talisman could be treated as I believe they want to be and should be treated.

So it seems to me that the hypocrisy associated with Conservative policy here has really got to be brought to an end. It may be that I can't persuade them that local option is not as good as it was in 1926 or whenever it was—

**Mr. Drea:** You voted for it last year.

**Mr. Nixon:** All right, but surely we've got to reach some kind of an accommodation with the problems that the people in these areas face. Believe me, they are not glassy-eyed drunks who simply want to have lots of cheap beer and hand it out to under-age kids or something like that. We don't have to worry about that. I submit that we do not. But there should be some kind of accommodation. The least we should do is have an amendment—and I wish the minister was here, because I have communicated with him about this; but I understand one of his advisers is here who knows quite a bit about this.

I would hope that we would have an amendment introduced in this House so that at least, at the discretion of the Liquor Licence Board on the application of a township, the right to have another vote would be granted before that three-year limit is up. Because in many instances, within a few months of the most recent vote this regulation, while it wasn't changed, was enforced in a different way; and it is not fair to the people concerned.

I would say to the Speaker and the parliamentary assistant that I would hope we will have a bill for discussion on that basis; and it should never be brought forward as anything having to do with the statement in the Speech from the Throne about the reform of it. This is simply a stop-gap correction for a situation that is simply unsupportable and that I, as one member, want set right.

**Mr. Worton:** Okay, Frank?

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, I wish that during these remarks I could have laid before you a clear and easy solution to the problems of alcoholic beverages, but I have indicated to you the way I feel that the mood of the community is changing. Not only is there a much broader and, I think, a healthier acceptance of it, but I think there is a much better awareness of the tremendous dangers and the destructiveness of the use of alcoholic beverages.

I think we can reflect that in this House by establishing a policy designed to ban advertising having to do with beer and liquor in this province in every way we can and by a programme of education which will be effective and which I believe should be mandatory.

I also ask that the government give immediate consideration to solving this problem in the communities that I have brought to your attention, and I feel sure, with the reasonable attitude they show to some of these practical matters, that a solution can be achieved.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Scarborough Centre.

**Mr. Drea:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After I make a few introductory remarks, I would appreciate it if the former Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Nixon) would stay for a few moments and perhaps I could reply to some of the matters he raised.

It has always been my tradition to say a few words about the riding and the borough I have the honour to represent. I wish to commend the Minister of Government Services (Mrs. Scrivener) for the decision, in a period of restraint, to recognize the priorities of Scarborough in the fact that a massive new courthouse, one that will be 10 storeys high, will be built across from the town centre. It is one that will encompass the county courts, the provincial courts—both criminal and family—as well as various administration of justice offices.

I say this for two reasons, Mr. Speaker. First of all, because of your partial connection with the borough through some old friends, I'm sure you are aware of the fact that within

a decade Scarborough will be the largest municipality in this province. Certainly it is a mark of the foresight of the Minister of Government Services, of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and of those responsible for the administration of justice that the borough has been selected as the first place where there will be truly a suburban court complex, one that is away from downtown.

Certainly I believe the newspaper publicity that followed the announcement of the Ministry of Government Services about the courthouse, saying that this confirmed a downtown for Scarborough, also shows foresight by the province, because one of the difficulties in the suburban areas until this time has been the lack of a very clear and identifiable downtown or civic area as contrasted to that of the older cities and other urban areas.

[4:15]

**Mr. Roy:** You are very lucky. They are having the courthouse in the Holiday Inn in Ottawa.

**Mr. Drea:** Well if the people in Ottawa would make the decisions that the people in the southern part of Scarborough make they too would have a brand new 10-storey courthouse, my friend.

**Mr. Roy:** What you're suggesting is you've got to be Tory to get a courthouse.

**Mr. Drea:** That's right, that would be a step.

**Mr. Roy:** That's a great approach, vote Tory.

**Mr. Drea:** It's very successful, Albert. I think it's very significant that the first new courthouse built in the province in a period of restraint is going you know where.

**Mr. Roy:** Because you're a Tory.

**Mr. Reid:** A great philosophy of government.

**Mr. Moffatt:** A great addition.

**Mr. Reid:** That's why you're closing down the hospitals.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Drea:** I don't know of any hospital closings in the borough of Scarborough, but perhaps we'll come to that in a moment.

**Mr. Roy:** That's quite an admission.

**Mr. Drea:** Mr. Speaker, I would also like to just touch on one other matter in the borough of Scarborough. As you know, one

of the experiments by the Toronto Transit Commission has been an express bus from the Town Centre to downtown Toronto, using a rather unconventional route. Because it's an express bus, it goes down the Don Valley Parkway; it obviously doesn't pick up passengers in between. This is a very heavily subsidized run. It is of great benefit to the people of the borough of Scarborough because the existing bus lines, quite often, by the time they feed into the Warden Ave. subway, take as long to get to the subway as the subway does to get downtown.

In view of the fact that the Town Centre at the moment doesn't have any direct transportation, this express bus service leaving to downtown Toronto was indeed, quite frankly, a very beneficial thing for a great number of commuters in Scarborough. It seems now that the Toronto Transit Commission in its time of restraint feels that this is a frill. At the moment, I am informed by the mayor of Scarborough, the TTC is cutting the service back just to rush hour. They also plan, if their restraints continue, to discontinue the service altogether.

I would suggest that a transportation body such as the TTC that can afford to pay its general manager more than the Premier of Ontario (Mr. Davis) is paid by this Legislature, a municipal transit authority that wants to shoot \$500,000 on silly neon tubes and other forms of art in subways, is very far off its role in society when it wants to go on paying exorbitant salaries to its top management—

**Mr. Cunningham:** How much did courthouses get?

**Mr. Mancini:** Ask him about the Lieutenant Governor's suite.

**Mr. Reid:** Have you looked at the Wintario grants lately?

**Mr. Drea:** —when it wants to continue a procedure to make the interior of its subway stations more attractive at the expense of suburban riders. I would certainly hope that the regional transportation authority, which doesn't have any direct control over the Toronto Transit Commission, but certainly is in a position to give some advice, reminds the TTC that its obligation is not to pay high salaries to its bureaucrats and not to put up all kinds of paintings that nobody else wants to buy in subways.

**Mr. Kerrio:** Look who's talking.

**Mr. Reid:** Don't you think you should clean up your own backyard first?



**Mr. Drea:** Its function is to deliver people in the most expeditious manner, at the most reasonable rate and with the best service available. I would certainly hope that that is brought to the attention of the TTC.

I was very pleased to hear the remarks of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) this afternoon. Apparently there has been considerable change in thinking within that party. I took the opportunity while he was speaking of getting the Hansard of July 8, 1975. At that time we were talking about the Liquor Control Act, Bills 45 and 46, if I recall. At that particular time he was telling us that he personally thought the legislation should have been liberalized. That is a quote from page 2509.

**Mr. Nixon:** If I may, will the member permit a question?

**Mr. Drea:** Yes.

**Mr. Nixon:** Does he not think that improving local option—that is, removing it—is not a liberalizing approach?

**Mr. Drea:** If you would have held your question until I was finished with the next sentence—

**Mr. Kerrio:** That might be two hours.

**Mr. Moffatt:** You might have forgotten it.

**Mr. Drea:** —what I was going to say is the local option question is one that I want to just hold for a moment, because there are some improvements already along the way to that extent.

**Mr. Nixon:** Good.

**Mr. Drea:** I don't regard the local option question as a matter of liberalization of the Liquor Control Act, no I don't. That's a mechanical procedure, it is not even the longer, and I think that your—

**Mr. Nixon:** That's the cornerstone of the Tory party.

**Mr. Drea:** Just a minute. The member's arguments for easing the present time limits on local option votes are proof that it is a mechanical venture at a particular time with regard to circumstances only at that time. If I recall the thrust of his speech, he was saying that what people will do in March or April, 1976, they may deeply regret, because there may be a social problem or at least the feeling of a social problem, in December or January, 1977, and they should have the right to change again.

**Mr. Nixon:** The government changes the rules right after. It changes the rules of the game.

**Mr. Drea:** No, we haven't, not on local options.

**Mr. Nixon:** Certainly it did.

**Mr. Drea:** We will come to local options. In any event, I was very pleased to see that the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk now almost shares my view on the alcohol problem.

**Mr. Nixon:** Oh, I am not that liberal.

**Mr. Singer:** Come on now; be careful.

**Mr. Reid:** That is almost libellous.

**Mr. Drea:** Back in June he was gung ho. He wanted wine in the parks, and wine at the picnics. We don't hear about that today.

**Mr. Nixon:** Oh, yes I do.

**Mr. Drea:** Very good.

**Mr. Mancini:** Get your story straight.

**Mr. Drea:** My story? Do you want to read Hansard or are you capable of reading without subtitles?

**Mr. Nixon:** You read it; it is a good speech.

Interjections.

**Mr. Drea:** I am very glad that less than a year has passed—

**Mr. Nixon:** And you are still here.

**Mr. Drea:** —to hear the sentiments concerning alcohol by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk—

**Mr. Nixon:** No, no. Get it right.

**Mr. Drea:** —particularly the problem dealing with the under-21-year-old drinkers and with the causes of it, although I don't go as far as he does with advertising. But certainly I agree with him that there is no single solution to the problem of the under-21 drinking, the under-18 drinking, or the under-81 drinking. I agree with his proposition that society has changed a very great deal in a very short period of time. I am not so sure that society is prepared to go back in a cyclical operation as quickly as it got into this, nor do I think it is really capable of doing so.

I think it is ludicrous to suggest that the mere reduction of the drinking age to 18

produced the tremendous amount of consumption, either real or imagined, that there is among teenagers today. The reason I underlined "real or imagined" is, it is very difficult to get really adequate statistics on the under-18 drinker, while at the same time every parent in this province, or virtually every one, is profoundly concerned about the fact that they have the feeling about or they know or they have heard about either their children or the children down the street.

I think there has to be something that goes beyond whether we raise the age or whether we put education programmes into the schools for young people. I feel it is ludicrous to suggest that a 17- or an 18- or a 19-year-old should be made aware of the abuse and the potential for abuse of alcohol when he is used to coming home and in the last five or six years, his very formative years, finding mommy and daddy are having one or two before supper to get through the stress of the day, and one or two afterwards to make television or whatever else is going on in the household more friendly.

I think it is asking a very great deal of young people to sit in a health class and to listen to information about the abuse of alcohol and the potential for it, when every member in this House today knows that in the past five or six years on going into somebody's house the offer of some refreshment has changed from tea or coffee into, "Do you want a drink?" In fact, if you visit someone's house today, other than very early in the morning, it is very rare that you are offered tea or coffee. The first question is, "Do you want a drink?"

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: What has your answer been?

Mr. Bain: Just say you don't want it.

Mr. Reid: What are you opting for?

Mr. Drea: What am I opting for? I'm the one who put tea, coffee and milk in bars, my friend, and don't forget it.

Mr. Singer: I had forgotten. I must admit.

Mr. Reid: We will put that on your tombstone.

Mr. Drea: Well, you certainly never bought any.

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: You certainly never indulged. But I think it's a bit unfair, and I agree with

the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk that of the particular attitudes and the particular social trends of all of society, somehow the only thing we are concerned about is the implications and the practices that are adopted by the younger people.

I was very grateful to the member for the praise of the Liquor Licence Board, that they have been ruthless in terms of enforcing the legislation against consumption in a licensed premises by anyone under 18 years, or the purchase of it. I agree with him. I think we have gone about as far as we can go.

One of the difficulties is that in the hotel business there is a double standard, and I think we should look at it in exactly that light. If the hotel, for any reason, is found to have served someone under the age of 18, the penalties are enormous and the repercussions almost instant. By the same token—and I want to make myself clear, I am not commenting upon the validity of the judges' decisions—but I think we have to take into account what happens to the offender, the 16- or 17-year-old, the boy or the girl who went in and purchased that alcohol. It may very well be that they are charged, but when they go to the provincial court, there isn't a provincial judge in this province who is going to sentence them to jail, because if there were it would be raised the following day, or that afternoon, right on the floor of this House. Secondly, deep down within himself or herself, the provincial judge knows that even on the imposition of a very substantial fine the parent or somebody else is going to pay it. He knows this.

They already know that the probation services of this province are stretched almost to the limit, and telling a young person to go to a place two or three or four times in a month, is neither a punishment nor a deterrent in the future. So we do have a double standard, and quite frankly, it's no one's fault; on paper it looks the same.

I suggest that one of the things that we have to do in the field of enforcement is to come up with a sufficient deterrent that will at least be an attempt to keep younger people out of licensed premises. I suggest that one of the difficulties is that the young person now knows that the parents and society and, indeed, even the courts regard this much the same as the last speaker did, as something that was part of our society or part of growing up or what have you—at least it wasn't the end of the world.

To a parent who finds his teenage daughter with marijuana or some other form of drug, or has even heard that she is associating with



someone who uses it, it is the end of the world. They want to get them to a psychiatrist, they want treatment, they want everything. If the boy or the girl comes home and they have had two, three, four or five beers, all right, the parent levies some action, but it is not the end of the world. It is something that is acceptable in our society and is considered part of growing up.

I think this puts another unfair burden upon younger people. In short, it is one of the few offences they can do in society to show their independence and the punishment is not terribly substantial.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the last time that I spoke in this debate—and I think you were in the chair, because I congratulated you on your forbearance, your patience, your demeanour and so forth—I said that I was in favour of raising the age. I am. I am in favour of raising the age for one reason, I think it should be out of the high schools. I think that, indeed, this has become a substantial problem, because it is very difficult—pardon?

Mr. Moffatt: Move it to 66.

Mr. Drea: Move it to what?

Mr. Moffatt: To 66.

Mr. Drea: Well, we could take your attitude and drop it to six, too.

Mr. Moffatt: I didn't say that, I said 66.

Mr. Drea: The difficulty in the high schools today is that pretty generally the grade 13 people are over the age of 18, or at least in that reasonable position that they are entitled to go out, if they choose, at their lunch and have a beer or something with their sandwiches. By the same token, most of the children in the school are not. Also, Mr. Speaker, and you are a parent as am I, it is becoming increasingly difficult, particularly with young ladies, to tell the difference between a 15-, 16-, 18- or 19-year-old, and the same way with young men.

There is not a school principal in the province who doesn't want the age raised or at least enough to keep it out of the high schools. They want to go back to high-school dances without alcohol, and I don't think that that is an unreasonable request.

[4:30]

In my borough, in the borough of Scarborough, at a high school where my children go, they cannot have school dances any more because of the alcohol problem; and the problem does not relate to the

students or the teachers but to people coming in at 9 or 9:30 loaded to the gills.

Mr. Nixon: They could hire cops to keep them out.

Mr. Drea: As a matter of fact, one of the things that the teachers will tell you which strikes right at the roots of what the hon. member was saying, is that when they do find a student, particularly a 15- or 16-year-old, who has had too much to drink, and they call the parents, they get abuse from the parents for bothering them to come down and get the kid. This is a most frustrating and heartbreaking thing for a teacher who has given up his Friday or Wednesday night to supervise a school dance.

Mr. Nixon: You've got to be careful when you say that happens every time. Surely that is the rare occasion?

Mr. Drea: Well, talk to the teachers who have to go there—

Mr. Nixon: It is kind of a generalization.

Mr. Drea: —talk to the teachers who have done it for years. Indeed it is a problem.

Mr. Speaker, coming back to the deterrent, I am very glad to see the Law Reform Commission—at least the federal one—is talking in this direction; and I would certainly hope that the federal Minister of Justice acts on one of its suggestions, which is that instead of jail sentences, community work projects should be assigned under the auspices of the federal Criminal Code. Indeed, while not being a solicitor, I understand that under the present legislation it apparently would be extremely hazardous for a provincial judge to give a work assignment in lieu of a sentence because the person, if he didn't like the work assignment, could immediately appeal that sentence. Therefore, the sentence would be null and void, and the person could not be brought in again, tried and given an alternative punishment.

I certainly hope that the federal government moves in the area of community work assignments. I think this might balance the scale somewhat. After all, for a proprietor or an employee—and remember the employee, although he is not going to lose his licence, certainly is in for a very substantial fine; and invariably an employee who is convicted in court of supplying alcohol to somebody under the age of 18 simply does not work in that establishment again—the penalties on that side are substantial.

I don't think that the penalties on the other side, because of youth and the problems of adolescence, should be that substantial. But I suggest they should be somewhat more than they are now. Because right now, for practical purposes, what is involved is a bawling-out by the parents, a second bawling-out by the parent who has to go to court, and the promise to be good.

I think that work assignments in the community might reinforce the attitude that there are responsibilities towards society; one of them is to obey the law, and that if you do not obey the law, at least you can reconcile yourself to doing adequate work in the community. I think that indeed would be a deterrent and I think it would balance the scales.

Coming to the question of local option and special-occasion permits, as you know, one of the regulations that was part and parcel of the liquor control legislation last year did provide, if the municipalities wanted it, for an almost immediate lessening of the time from three years to two. As a matter of fact, one of the things the hon. member didn't mention is the tremendous cost to a small municipality of having a vote. As a first step toward modernizing local option while still respecting the principle, we were prepared to allow the local option ballot to be conducted at the same time as the municipal one; in other words, every two years. We have taken the first step.

I can sympathize with the particular problems of the member in that you can get a special-occasion permit in your area to give it away. If you want to sign a statutory declaration with the Crown and say you are giving it away and definitely not selling liquor, you can get a special-occasion permit. In short, community groups are being forced—if you want to put it that way—to break the law. I have much more regard for community groups. I don't think they break the law.

I suggest that on something as personal as alcohol no two people, not even in this particular House today, agree on any two facets of alcohol; perhaps they do in principle but certainly not on the mechanisms. On a thing that personal, which has to do with one's environment, culture, religion, education, attitude, economics, what have you, I suggest the only responsible way in the areas still left under local option is that they remain under local option. To do otherwise would be to change the rules of the game.

I am not going to suggest that when one is in a dry area or a no-sale area everything is

virtually cut off and one has to motor down the road to find an oasis. I recall that the former member for High Park used to pursue this from time to time because a great deal of his riding was a no-sale area. Members will recall that during the last Legislature there was a vote there and it remained dry yet the beer trucks roll in upon request to the households. The truck from the LCBO would deliver to a household even though this was a no-sale area. One didn't have to leave home to buy. The former member for High Park, great crusader as he was, would always come forward charging and I would reply to him very simply, "All right, just give it to us in writing and we will stop the practice." He pulled back because the consequences were obvious.

I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, and I agree, that local option is indeed the root of Toryism in this province. I find it very strange that the member for Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk—

**Mr. Nixon:** Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

**Mr. Drea:** Oxford?

**Mr. Nixon:** Part of Oxford.

**Mr. Drea:** Part of Oxford?

**Mr. Nixon:** Oxford; part of Norfolk, part of Brant.

**Mr. Drea:** Let me keep getting it straight. I am just thinking of all these dry areas where never again will a permit be issued.

**Mr. Nixon:** What kind of a stupid threat is that?

**Mr. Drea:** I am not; I am making a facetious one. You're the one who is sitting here. You are the one who has insulted every community group in your riding

**Mr. Nixon:** All right. I am sorry. Your sense of humour eludes me sometimes because you are quite capable—

**Mr. Drea:** You sat there. You stood there not half an hour ago and insulted every community group in your riding. You hinted very strongly that they were applying for no-sale liquor permits and certain things took place. You suggested that very strongly.

**Mr. Nixon:** Will the assistant permit a question? Is he aware that the Liquor Licence Board did not even have our township down as a dry township and were awarding the sale permits as if it had voted wet? What kind of an organization has he got down there? It has been very convenient for many people.

**Mr. Reid:** He must be running it.



Mr. Drea: I can reply that if it hasn't been down it—

Mr. Nixon: They were breaking no laws.

Mr. Drea: If it hasn't been down until today as a dry it certainly will be down in about 15 minutes as a dry area.

Mr. Nixon: You finally got around to fixing it.

Mr. Drea: I do not like negligence. I never approve of negligence or carelessness.

Coming back to the local option thing and the principle of Toryism and the hypocrisy the member suggests, I suggest that it's the other way around. When he opened his speech he attacked my minister. He said he was trying to interfere with local autonomy and a democratically-elected council. What is more democratic than to let the people in an area decide whether they want liquor? Whether they want it sold? Whether they want stores? Whether they want hotels? What is more democratic? You can't have it both ways.

Mr. Nixon: You changed the rules after the vote. That is why they have to have another.

Mr. Drea: We didn't change any rule.

Mr. Nixon: You certainly did.

Mr. Drea: You probably changed them by bringing to the attention of the Liquor Licence Board that it was a dry area. You did, now suffer.

Mr. Nixon: I certainly did not. Your voting procedure is completely out of whack. You are going to have to amend it. What about an amendment? Will you recommend one to your minister? Do you talk to him?

Mr. Drea: As a matter of fact, I would suggest to you despite the fact that you say I am capable of doing certain things, it's not in the form of an amendment; it is certainly not in the form of a draft yet because it could be done by regulation. It could be done.

Mr. Nixon: The way you do most of this is by regulation.

Mr. Drea: No.

Mr. Nixon: Yes.

Mr. Drea: That is not true.

Mr. Nixon: Except you want to save Talisman or you want to do a favour to the private clubs.

Mr. Drea: No.

Mr. Nixon: You are the one who has it both ways. Yet you allow people to vote local options so that certain people can drink. Now you call that democratic? I think you are out of touch.

Mr. Drea: No. No, you have misread the whole thing. Once again, when we introduced the legislation last year, one of the commitments to this House—

Mr. Nixon: Was that there would be—

Mr. Drea: Just a moment. Control yourself. Restrain. Having confessed to being a teen-age tippler, why, just cool it an hour later.

Mr. Nixon: No, no. It was 21 in those days, Frank.

Mr. Drea: You mean you were 20? I thought you were 19.

Mr. Nixon: You are drawing conclusions.

Mr. Drea: Well, in any event you were an under-age tippler at one time.

Mr. Nixon: For medicinal purposes.

Mr. Drea: I would have thought it was for romantic, but we won't go into that.

Mr. Nixon: I don't need that kind of stimulation.

Mr. Drea: There is the concept of the local option, particularly in regard to the area that does not want a large number of licenced premises, may indeed only want one or may indeed only want special occasion permits for a community hall for a special community function. There is the feeling that because of certain developments in the area, because of other considerations, that the time period now indeed is a bit too long. Now, as I say, we have already offered. That was done through the municipal-provincial liaison committee last year. This was brought to their attention. Would they like liquor votes every two years if they could be conducted on a municipal ballot which would save money?

At that particular time they said they did. Unfortunately some of the people who were prominent in that committee the last time are no longer prominent in it. Certainly we have moved that far. I can assure the member for Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk-Oxford and all of western Ontario, or wherever those places are, that that is under active consideration. But I would be less than frank with you were I to say that I don't really think that you can have votes every six months.

Mr. Nixon: I thought you were Frank all the time.

Mr. Laughren: Please be more than frank.

Mr. Drea: I am just warming up.

Mr. Nixon: How about an application to the board?

Mr. Drea: What?

Mr. Nixon: How about an application to the board by a motion of the council so that they could consider the possibility of special circumstances?

Mr. Drea: I think we would be inclined to consider that.

Mr. Nixon: Let's do that.

Mr. Drea: No, no. There may be some considerations under there. I would think that most people agree in principle with your position. I think the other thing that we have to realize is that where people are delayed a long time in a vote by the artificial restraint, there is a tendency by the community group to come in and to ask for a "no sale" permit and hope that nobody casually drops in from the provincial police or nobody complains.

Mr. Nixon: Or the individual does as they used to do—brings a bottle and puts it under the table.

Mr. Drea: That's right, and neither one of those particular practices is, I think, within the meaning of the operative word in liquor policy in this province which is "control", because first of all the local authorities are not aware of the fact that alcohol is being consumed by a large number of people, and secondly, when people feel they are having an illicit drink, I think, being human, they tend to drink a little bit harder or longer. I must say that as a statesman and as a suggestor, the former leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario is doing much better as a back-bencher than he ever did when he had the big microphone in front.

Mr. Reid: That is certainly worthy of you, Frank.

An hon. member: Is that nice, Frank?

Mr. Drea: I meant it very much as a compliment. After all he was—

Mr. Laughren: Always the hired gun, aren't you, Frank?

Mr. Drea: Never. I haven't said a word about the other fellow yet. I was going to be nice to him but you are dissuading.

Mr. Swart: You will never catch him yet.

Mr. Nixon: We have been in here since 2 o'clock.

Mr. Drea: The other fellow?

Mr. Nixon: You and me.

Mr. Drea: Yes, the vanishing breed.

Mr. Nixon: Hurry up.

Mr. Drea: That's all with liquor. You can leave. One last reply to the member which concerns advertising. I share his concern about the volume, the attractiveness, the scope of beverage alcohol advertising in this province, particularly on TV, which is beer. [4:45]

Mr. Laughren: If you don't stop tampering with the free enterprise system you're going to destroy it, Frank.

Mr. Drea: First of all, the alcohol beverage industry is neither free nor enterprising nor anything else.

Interjection.

Mr. Drea: One of the problems we have with it is that it is probably the most socialist of all industries; its prices are regulated, its practices are regulated and it is a monument to the inability of any government to tinker with the free enterprise system.

Mr. Bain: So you're going to let it be a free open market then?

Mr. Moffatt: Liquor at every grocery store.

Mr. Bain: Anybody can sell their own, brew their own, do whatever they want with it.

Mr. Drea: You can brew your own now. You don't even know the Act.

Mr. Bain: I said sell it. Sell it and brew it.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, coming back to the advertising, one of the difficulties—and I recall in this province, because I was part of the lobby at that time from the publishing industry—I can recall when print advertising was banned in this province.

Mr. Nixon: Leslie Frost.

Mr. Drea: Oh, the member's father had something to do with that. Institutional ads



were permitted. I'm sure some of the older members of the House can recall the days when Red Cap would tell you how to buy a used car. There would just be a little Red Cap down at the bottom. One of the great difficulties with print advertising is the court decisions that say you cannot ban a publication that has that advertising in it provided it was produced elsewhere.

I am very proud to have been part of the lobby. The lobby included labour, it included all the printing trade unions, and it included periodical publishers in this province. The thickest periodical in this province is *Week-end Magazine* from Montreal. It is just loaded. Why, it is half as big again as a telephone book. And all of that work was going into the Province of Quebec.

You will recall when the senior Mr. Bennett banned alcohol advertising in the Province of British Columbia. *Time* magazine took him to court and the court came down and said Quebec is where *Time* is published and that *Time* had every right to carry that advertising and to be sold in the Province of British Columbia.

Again, with television, I can recall when there was no beer advertising on television. I think too the members should remember the distillers have stayed away from television advertising both in the United States and here, and to a large degree I compliment them on that. But I can recall the National Soccer League games in downtown Toronto, when they used to bring the truck over from channel 2 in Buffalo. They used to hire Eddie Fitkin, who couldn't have found Buffalo if he had to go back with the truck. Labatts sponsored it. For four hours the people in Buffalo were deprived of any TV at all; it was aimed into the Toronto market. This was being done all the time.

I suggest that an attempt to ban advertising in Ontario in isolation would not work, particularly in the more densely populated areas where access to television signals, to radio broadcasts and to print from other jurisdictions is available. Now, the suggestion has been made that it is up to the provinces to get together with the federal government to discuss this problem rationally and to come up with an efficient solution. For the past couple of years that the Liquor Control Board—not the Liquor Licence Board, the Liquor Control Board—has been meeting, I think you have seen an improvement in the quality of the beer advertising on TV.

Mr. Nixon: They're great ads.

Mr. Drea: As a matter of fact, the one that I like the best really is the one that features the two geriatrics, Madame Benoit, the fat lady and the old colonel, or whatever his name is, from Carlsberg.

Mr. Nixon: Are they on a trampoline?

Mr. Drea: No, she is talking about the quality of the yeast in her bread and he says he uses it in his beer. They munch bread and beer together, and since both are obviously way up there, obviously this is not intended for the youth market. As a matter of fact, quite frankly, having had a lot to do with keeping Mr. Rimstead afloat in his commercials, I enjoy Mr. Rimstead's commercials.

Mr. Martel: Not you, Frank. Not you.

Mr. Drea: I enjoy his commercials. I don't think they imply—

Mr. Nixon: Nobody says that those are bad commercials. I think they're the best commercials selling anything. But they sell, and that is what we are talking about.

Mr. Drea: I'm not so sure that Mr. Rimstead—

Mr. Nixon: Oh, they're just on for entertainment, are they?

Mr. Drea: I'm not so sure that Mr. Rimstead sells to the younger set. The ones that bother me are the Molsons ads, particularly the jock ads which are offensive to females—Charlie and the boys all going around together in their second childhood—

Mr. Nixon: A little pick-up ball—pick-up ball.

Mr. Drea: —also the Labatts commercials which feature the happy young couple coming home. Presumably they're a couple; they live together.

The one I find most offensive, and I think something has to be done about it, is the one where the middle-aged man on Labatts is coming home on the bus and he's in terrible shape. He's standing; his face is very hot; he's obviously worked all day or at least stood in line at the unemployment insurance wicket for a considerable period of time. When he gets to the door, there is wifey with two right there on the tray. And then he retreats to his beautiful back yard and he feels so refreshed.

Interjection.

Mr. Drea: When is the last time your wife met you at the door with two bottles of beer?

**Mr. Martel:** There has never been a first time.

**Mr. Drea:** I agree with the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. I think that is the kind of advertising that we're trying to get at.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, there is a joint committee of the provinces that meets with the CRTC to discuss these problems. There has been some progress made—I would be the last to disagree with the member—but not enough.

In terms of the hard liquor ads and the wine ads in the magazines, one of the difficulties in this country is that there isn't a broad enough national advertising market to sustain many Canadian periodicals. Thus, those there are are virtually saturated with alcohol ads.

I think that is a fact of life of having to live in Canada. If those ads were to be discontinued, then I suggest some government is going to have to face up to that very, very difficult task of replacing that revenue for those magazines without getting into state-supported periodicals and all of the things that go with that. But I do appreciate the concerns of the member for Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk-Oxford and somewhere.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Scarborough?

**Mr. Drea:** Not quite yet. The last time he came there, he stayed out of my riding. He went right around it. Block by block. He's a nice friendly fellow.

**Mr. B. Newman:** You mean that regional government hasn't included Scarborough yet?

**Mr. Drea:** Regional government? What's that?

**Mr. B. Newman:** Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Nixon:** Metro.

**Mr. Spence:** Aren't you allowed in there, Frank?

**Mr. Drea:** Mr. Speaker, turning to a couple of other topics—it seems to me that there has to be considerably more responsibility in society, particularly in regard to some of the activities where we, as individuals, do have control over our own destiny. One that I would like to talk about is in the field of insurance, particularly automobile insurance.

**Mr. Laughren:** Oh, please do.

**Mr. Drea:** I am not going to read off, although I just happen to have it here, all the sins of British Columbia. Just be quiet and I won't go bang, bang.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Who read it to you?

**Mr. Swart:** Saskatchewan and Manitoba, of course too.

**Mr. Eaton:** Just mention BC.

**Mr. Drea:** Sure. They're getting ready to bail out. Here come the parachutes.

**Mr. Eaton:** Just mention British Columbia and they all get excited.

**Mr. Martel:** Are you not running again, Frank?

**Mr. Drea:** Sure I am—

**Mr. Martel:** What for?

**Mr. Drea:** —absolutely. The member's leader said I would run third the last time. I always like making a liar out of the leader of the NDP.

**Mr. Martel:** My leader?

**Mr. Drea:** The member's leader.

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the hon. member continue his debate please.

**Mr. Drea:** Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, I would be glad if you could bring some decorum to the democratic left.

**Mr. Martel:** What does that mean?

**Mr. Drea:** I want to talk about the concept of compulsory insurance in this province.

**Mr. Martel:** In auto insurance.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please. The hon. member will continue.

**Mr. Drea:** Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that we can no longer, as a society, really afford the tremendous costs that accrue to the rest of society because of automobile accidents. Not just in terms of the economics, which are either picked up by OHIP, or perhaps, for someone who is utterly incapacitated, by some form of social assistance, but also in terms of the unfairness—

**Mr. Moffatt:** Explain that.

**Mr. Drea:** If you are hit by a non-insured driver whom nobody can find, there's going to be no court judgement; there's going to be nothing. So you're going to have to go.



Mr. Laughren: I was referring to your comment that social assistance in Ontario incapacitated people. You're quite right.

Mr. Drea: I did not say that.

Mr. Bain: You did so, check Hansard.

Mr. Martel: We want to correct it, so you can correct it tomorrow Frank.

Mr. Laughren: That sounded just terrible.

Mr. Drea: Were you the one who has just spoken?

Interjections.

Mr. Bain: Yes, I've got to get involved to correct your erroneous statements.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: We all volunteer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

Mr. Bain: The comment you refer to was that social assistance in this province incapacitates people.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. members will allow the hon. member to continue his remarks.

Mr. Laughren: Tell him to stop being provocative.

Mr. Bain: The problem is we are the only ones listening.

Mr. Drea: My friend, if I spoke as poorly as the man who made that last interjection, I wouldn't dare be up on my feet.

Mr. Laughren: You should sit down.

Mr. Drea: As long as I'm here this afternoon, my friend, you sit there and listen or there's the door and you can leave.

Mr. Laughren: Always the hired gun.

Mr. Moffatt: Shoot from the hip.

Mr. Bain: Continue, we await your next words.

Mr. Laughren: You haven't changed since your days in Sudbury, Frank.

Mr. Drea: Never.

Mr. Laughren: You should be ashamed of yourself.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, coming back to insurance, it seems to me to be utterly unfair that a person who deliberately chooses not to buy insurance for a payment of \$60—

Mr. Young: That's not insurance.

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: —can receive the right to operate a motor vehicle in this province.

Mr. Martel: Your government did that.

Mr. Drea: A motor vehicle that can do a tremendous amount of damage. I don't want to talk about the economics of it now, I want to talk about the human problem.

Mr. Laughren: Tory free enterprise.

Mr. Drea: I must admit I was very outraged today—or yesterday—reading in a newspaper that a man who drives an Oldsmobile Delta said he drives in fear because he cannot afford automobile insurance. The man can afford an Oldsmobile Delta and all the gas it takes to drive a fancy one like that: all of the car washes and all of the oil and all of the finance payments and what have you. Surely the time has come for compulsory insurance in this province.

Mr. Laughren: No fault and public.

Mr. Drea: If we cannot have compulsory insurance because there are those irresponsible enough to want to take a chance—

Mr. Bain: What were the contributions?

Mr. Drea: —I suggest that instead of paying \$60 into the unsatisfied judgement fund—

Mr. Young: That's not insurance.

Mr. Drea: —because I cannot see why the people who are responsible—we subsidize that to a degree and that's fair because we might be a hit by a stolen car or by somebody who vanishes. That's a form of insurance protection; the part on one's driver's licence.

It seems to me the time has come when \$60 is far too low a fee for that type of thing. I would suggest that perhaps the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough)—I hope he is listening—next week might raise that fee to \$150 as a start and that in his subsequent budgets he might bring it up to \$300 or \$400.

Mr. Swart: First change it into public auto insurance and we'll have the best.

Mr. Drea: If you brought in public automobile insurance in this province you'd bankrupt us almost as much as you did British Columbia. You blew your brains out in British Columbia.

Interjections.

**Mr. Drea:** Public automobile insurance in this country is D-E-A-D; and the guy who buried it was Barrett and all the rest of them out there.

**Mr. Swart:** It will come back. I heard that for Saskatchewan; I heard that for Manitoba too; but the Liberals and Tories kept it.

**Mr. Drea:** Not in British Columbia. It's game over and your fellow is out there taking a subsidy, cap in hand, saying: "Please let me have a job; please let me back in."

Interjections.

**Mr. Drea:** The voters were not misled by you. They turfed you out. The flagship sank with virtually all hands.

Interjections.

**Mr. Swart:** All the Tories sank.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; order.

**Mr. Drea:** You were building the promised land out there and the only thing that happened is you went on the reef; you fell apart; you broke apart; your captain is still on the shore and looking for work.

**Mr. Swart:** How many Conservatives have they got out there?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Drea:** That's the government.

**Mr. Swart:** I convinced him.

**Mr. Laughren:** You're in the right party, Frank. What's going to happen in Ontario?

Interjections.

**Mr. Bain:** Do you believe in Social Credit principles?

**Mr. Young:** What happened to the Tory party in British Columbia?

**Mr. Speaker:** I wonder if the hon. member would direct the question to the Chair, rather than to the member.

**Mr. Drea:** I'd be very glad to answer but I want to get this over with in about 10 minutes. I can tell you what happened to the Tory party—

**Mr. Martel:** It wouldn't take that long to tell us.

**Mr. Swart:** They are not in coalition with the Liberals like you are doing here.

**Mr. Drea:** In a coalition with them? We're not in a coalition with them. They just hang on our coat-tails; it's not our problem.

**Mr. Swart:** What's your problem?

**Mr. Drea:** The same thing happened to the Conservative Party in British Columbia as has happened to the NDP in the Province of Quebec. Some time you and I shall have a very nice discussion about it. They are calibres that equate to each other. I suppose that will bring up from Charlie Boy, or whatever his name was from last night, that we're destroying the fragile country again.

[5:00]

[To come back to the question of insurance I suggest, Mr. Speaker, through you to the Treasurer, that the fee for the unsatisfied judgement fund for somebody who deliberately eschews insurance goes up to \$150 and then to \$300. If someone is deliberately going to say: "I am better than everybody else, I do not have to accept my responsibilities, I do not have to pay my debts, and yet I am going to accept all of the privileges." I think the time has come. Why should he pay \$60? Why should he be allowed to buy an insurance policy that lapses after 30 days? Certainly I don't want to change the time payments on insurance. I know that people when they renew, and renewals come at a particular time of the year, it is very expensive, and there are families. I think payment on time is very acceptable.

**Mr. Martel:** Overly expensive.

**Mr. McClellan:** Why is it so expensive?

**Mr. Martel:** Overly expensive.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please.

**Mr. Drea:** Overly expensive?

**Mr. Martel:** Right.

**Mr. Drea:** After the experiment that you people did out there? After the experiment—

**Mr. Young:** Come off it, Frank. Tell us about Saskatchewan insurance.

**Mr. Drea:** The greatest experiment there ever was. They are going to write books about what you did in British Columbia—books, books, books.

**Mr. Martel:** You are right.

**Mr. Drea:** They won't be doing what the member for Brant-Haldimand, whatever it is—Brant-Oxford-Norfolk—was saying about



the worm in the glass at Sunday School. In future the books are going to be this high. Little kids are going to be given the books about the Barrett experiment in Canada, in British Columbia.

**Mr. Swart:** It was the Conservative-Liberal coalition in BC, the same as here, that caused your extinction. Now the Tories and Liberals have all jumped to Social Credit.

**Mr. Drea:** And you are going to have substantial problems in saying that you people had nothing to do with it. It was in a place west of the Rockies.

**Mr. Swart:** And you know what the Conservatives will use as their text book, 10 and 20 years hence? They'll use democratic socialist legislation—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please, I don't think we should have a debate back and forth across the House. Let's have the hon. member finish his speech.

**Mr. Martel:** We're ten years behind in Ontario.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Sudbury East—

**Mr. Martel:** You remember the Machiavellian scheme?

**Mr. Speaker:** —order.

**Mr. Drea:** The what?

**Mr. Martel:** The Machiavellian scheme on medicare.

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the hon. member continue with his remarks please.

**Mr. Young:** He is being provocative.

**Mr. Drea:** Listen, I was even trying to be nice to the member for Hamilton West (Mr. S. Smith) today, except he didn't come.

**Mr. Martel:** He was playing tennis.

**Mr. Drea:** Mr. Speaker, I want to come to two other aspects of legislation in our own ministry. One of the particular problems that is going to face this Legislature one way or another in a relatively brief period of time, and I say this in the utmost seriousness, is the question of film classification or censorship. Without commenting upon the merit of certain court decisions that I feel almost lay open the doors to a concept of the direct election of judges, we may have to face in this province in the very near future a

totally new concept in the rating or the censorship or the classification of film.

I can truthfully say that I don't think there is anyone in this House who really is enthralled with the principle of censorship. My personal opinion is that I really couldn't care less what you want to see. However, there is an obligation to society and, repugnant as the concept of censorship is when considered in isolation, it is very essential in our society today.

As you know, I had a great deal to do with the amendments to the Theatres Act that were passed in the last House. I am very pleased that at that particular time, there was a dissenting voice in this chamber as to the need to extend the jurisdiction of the theatres branch to 8mm film and videotape. Indeed, were the circumstances the same today and we still had that tawdry, carnival-like atmosphere on Yonge St., which was really the exploitation of sex for the sake of sex and the dollar, I am sure there wouldn't be a dissenting voice today.

One of the interesting things in the assumption of that jurisdiction by the theatres branch was the suggestion by the solicitors for many of the—I suppose I should call them porno houses; they never really did feature hard-core pornography. Nonetheless, the suggestion was there that you could see something that you couldn't see in a first-run theatre. The suggestion was that their clientele and their operations be treated differently within the law. Their argument was that they appealed to a peculiar and a particular segment of society that expected much more than those who frequented the more conventional movie houses where most of the population attend. We destroyed that argument by saying that if there is going to be a law and a classification and rating system, it was just as applicable to the patrons of Cinema 2000 and other places that people are not so prone to discuss, or where the films aren't reviewed, as indeed to those going to any of the Odeon, 20th Century or Famous Players theatres.

What concerns me a great deal these days is that the movie industry has turned full circle. It is now some of the first-line distributors who are suggesting that we should no longer censor or classify films on the grounds that if they are distributed by a first-class organization and shown in first-run houses therefore they are of such overwhelming artistic content that they deserve an exemption from the things we would take out of something if it was being shown in one of the 16mm theatres downtown, or on

videotape or in some other cubbyhole; that such films as the "Emmanuelle I" are artistic by virtue of the fact that a first-rate cinematographer did the photography on it; that the contents should no longer be of any particular concern to us.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker—and I would hope that we have the full support of the House on this—that the same standard that applies to the types of film and to sexploitation, the exploitation of violence or other peculiar aberrations that are being featured in Cinema 2000 or any of the 8mm or the 16mm places, is going to have to prevail on the first-run movie house. Whether you pick up some broken-down actress and use her in a soft-core, 8mm semi-pornographic film, which you are charged a quarter a reel to view in a machine, or whether you get a first-line star with a name that produces an audience response in a first-run house, I cannot see the difference. In terms of our society, I don't think there can be a difference. I don't think there can be a classification Act for the depraved and a classification Act for the normal. I think it is that simple.

I'm also very pleased to note—and my friend from Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) has long been an advocate of this; he must be quite pleased too—that you now see in the theatre ads that there are cautions about very coarse and very profane language. That, to me, has always been a particular problem. If there is something wrong in the film print; if there is something that would tend to be depraved, obscene or what have you, it is very easy to take out that scene. By the same token, you can also argue that the customer who takes a look at the billboard knows what is going to happen inside and, therefore, should have no complaint. The problem is with language.

As someone who respects the English language a great deal, I'm personally saddened by the fact that the English language appears to be in decline and that a great deal of street language now substitutes for a great many of the adjectives and other expressions that our language has enjoyed over the years. The particular problem now is that a great many people find that kind of language offensive. They do not use that language in public, they do not like to hear it and they find they are utterly defenceless when they go into a movie theatre because, after all, it doesn't say on the billboard that the guy curses every two minutes. The film may have been reviewed very highly. As a matter of fact, it may be a film of such merit as "All the King's Men." It may be a film of

such merit as "Taxi Driver." I don't go to the movies very much but I suggest that one particularly for those who are devotees of the British Columbia automobile insurance experiment.

Mr. Samis: Did you see them both?

Mr. Drea: There are some lines in there that should warm their hearts—

Mr. Samis: Name them.

Mr. Drea: —because they are headed in exactly the same direction.

Mr. Samis: Which film? I saw them both.

Mr. Drea: Which film?

Mr. Samis: "Taxi Driver"?

Mr. Drea: Yes.

Mr. Samis: Which line?

Mr. Drea: The existentialist lines.

Mr. Samis: There are a lot of those. They are heavy with those.

Mr. Drea: The problem for the moviegoers is that when they get in there they are confronted with bad language, and many of us have always felt that they did have a legitimate objection, that there should have been a warning outside so they could make up their minds before they entered the premises.

I commend Mr. Sims, the director of our theatres branch, in that we are now seeing those warnings about the language. Some people will say, "Why not cut out the language?" Unfortunately, with the sound married to the film, it is impossible without really ruining what otherwise would be a film of considerable merit. One simply cannot expunge any longer a word or two in a sentence.

I realize in the old days that when words like that were used in isolation for pure shock value and it was very easy in those days to snip, snip with the scissors. Today it is not.

I want to commend Mr. Sims because those cautions are now appearing in the advertising. I also want to commend the distributors, because the distributors are aware of this problem and the distributors have co-operated.

Mr. Samis: How many Canadian films are they showing, though?

Mr. Drea: Well, one of the problems with Canadian films, my friend, is that one couldn't be shown in this province, and it was pro-



duced by taxpayers' money and there is no one in this Legislature who wouldn't have been physically ill to see it. That's one of the problems.

Mr. Samis: Which one?

Mr. Drea: That's one of the problems. It was done with a first-class cast and I would be prepared to discuss with the member outside exactly why it wasn't shown in this province, and I think he would agree with me.

Mr. Samis: There are lots of those that could be.

Mr. Drea: Pardon?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Drea: That one was financed by the taxpayers through the Canadian Film Development Corp., which to me is unbelievable. However, I think the work of Mr. Sims will produce something in this province that is most desirable.

First of all, it will reinforce the attitude of the moviegoing public that they can take a reasonable look at the billboards of the advertising outside and make up their own mind on the quality of the production. Secondly, it will discourage the unscrupulous theatre distributor from putting that kind of a warning on every film in hopes of bringing in the suckers.

I think that step is long overdue. I think it is something that will benefit the public and I think the theatres branch should receive a great deal of credit for that.

In conclusion, I just want to say that for many years in this House, and I remember starting the battle single-handed, I argued most vehemently on gun control. As a matter of fact, I campaigned within my own party and I campaigned in this House. I was very gratified, just prior to the last election, when the legislation for an Ontario gun control programme was drafted. At that time I agreed with the position of the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the Attorney General-to-be, my friend from Eglinton (Mr. McMurtry), that the federal government should get one last chance to produce the legislation, in the interest of producing a uniform gun control programme across Canada.

I just want to say, for all the names that I called the federal Solicitor General, and they were many—"Swift Warren" was my favourite, which always used to bring a laugh—I want to say to him that I have badly misjudged him. I didn't think he would ever

quite get around to producing the legislation. He has. I don't agree with all of it, but then I am quite sure that despite the fact it is based upon our legislation it would be nit-picking.

Mr. Roy: You are too much.

Mr. Drea: After the remarks that you made—

Mr. Nixon: Give it to him, Frank, give it to him.

Mr. Drea: I haven't seen the member for Ottawa East since he was on TV and lost.

Mr. Roy: When was that; last week?

Mr. Drea: Last week.

Mr. Roy: Can you understand television, Frank?

Mr. Drea: Well, the member's speech came across so beautifully. It was the first one I ever saw him make without subtitles that I understood. I want to applaud him.

Mr. Roy: You are the only one, Frank.

Mr. Drea: Now he can sit around tonight with his paranoia and come back tomorrow and say I called him names again.

Mr. Roy: Do you like talking to yourself, Frank?

Mr. Drea: Okay, the member has provoked me.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Gaunt: The war is on.

[5:15]

Mr. Drea: I am tired of kicking losers. I was trying hard to avoid you today. I was going to try to be nice to you, now that you're down and out and your own party has repudiated you, and wouldn't even vote for you. I was going to be nice to you, then you provoked me.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member please continue his remarks this way?

Mr. Drea: I just want to say one final word in regard to the federal Solicitor General. His legislation is based upon our legislation. All of his reports came from our Solicitor General and Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. MacBeth) and the member for Ottawa East knows that because he is a crony of the federal Solicitor General, a very intimate crony.

Mr. Nixon: They phone judges together.

Mr. Drea: The member said that, I didn't. I would hope that he would modify certain parts of it because I do believe that certain parts of it will be a hardship upon the people in organized agriculture and also some of the people who have proved their responsibility over the years as hunters. I would certainly also hope that the federal Solicitor General would choose to include the very legitimate gun clubs which have done such an outstanding job in regard to gun control and gun education in this province.

I say that because the gun clubs in this province and organized hunters in this province, despite tremendous pressure on them from people outside our jurisdiction who oppose our gun control legislation, by and large recognize their responsibilities to society and they did support our legislation. I would hope now that the federal Solicitor General will be inclined to modify some of his views in regard to hunters and people in agriculture as well as target shooters, because certainly they are the kind of people who have demonstrated responsibility and shouldn't be punished now.

With that, Mr. Speaker, may I congratulate you on yet another session starting. We have got through the hired gun portion of the Throne Speech without a riot for about the seventh consecutive time. We are still here and, Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope you will rule with the firmness, the decisiveness and the force which has changed the question period in the last couple of weeks into something that is not only enjoyable but productive. Prior to that, I must say with some sadness it was far more enjoyable than productive.

As one final note, since you have achieved that miracle, could you find a reliable electrical contractor who can put in a sound system that works? We have a bureaucracy that is threatening to take over this whole building; every time you look around another office is gone. They are even coming up and threatening me on the fourth floor. With that morass of accountants, auditors and people who phone you up, send out mimeographed sheets and tell you that you can do this, or you can do that, surely it is not beyond their ability to find an electrical contractor and a sound man who can make a microphone do what it is supposed to do.

Mr. Roy: If we could turn it off sometimes that would be progress.

Mr. Drea: If the member had been here for the past couple of weeks—why does he come?

Mr. Roy: I didn't mean the member at all.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I hope you can convey that message to those who labour on the first floor, with the unemployment that has been mentioned at this time of restraint, I am sure there are a great many electricians and a great many audio men who would welcome the chance to show that a microphone really can work.

Mr. Nixon: I understand they have spent \$200,000 on this sound system already.

Mr. Drea: Really?

Mr. Nixon: That is what they tell me.

Mr. Drea: Don't look at me.

Mr. Nixon: It is your money, isn't it?

Mr. Drea: No, no; if they have shot \$200,000 on that one, it is all our necks because they represent everybody. But I would hope, Mr. Speaker, because it is discouraging—and I notice the improvement today—that the remarks that I have made through your firmness and your decisiveness will stimulate them into some action.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, a few years ago MGM made a film, a romance, called "A Dot on a Line." In this romantic story the line fell in love with the dot. Unfortunately the dot was in love with a squiggle. You can understand this because the squiggle was able to move all over the place; it was highly flexible. It could be kicked in any direction and it took whatever shape the particular kicker or kickee, as the case may be, wished it to take. The poor line had the problem, of course, that he was so rigid and inflexible. He was really no match for the squiggle.

The line decided that perhaps he should look at the whole situation and set some kind of objectives. He worked very hard and he developed all kinds of objectives of turning corners and going this way and going that way and eventually he became a flexible line. All of sudden, the dot realized that perhaps the squiggle really wasn't that attractive because no matter what happened the squiggle went in every direction. The line at least had some kind of stability and some kind of flexibility. The end of the story, of course, was that the dot married the line. I think it's a highly educational film and perhaps the



government members would like to look at the film at some time.

If there's a damning criticism of this government it is that it's a squiggle type of government. We in the opposition really can't object to the objectives of the government when it has no objectives. This was perhaps fine three decades ago when society was moving at a slower pace, when powerful interest groups were less able to give a strong kick to the big blue squiggle and send it in whatever particular direction they wanted.

In the past decades we've learned a lot about planning. We owe this to business research. We talk about management by objectives. We talk about five and 10-year plans for corporations. It's only too bad that the government which pretends to be the friend of big business hasn't learned any of the kinds of techniques that big business, management consultants and management experts have developed over the years. What kind of planning, what kind of objectives are there in a government which ignores our needs as 26 acres of farmland disappear in this province every hour of every day?

**Mr. Eaton:** Where does it disappear to? Tell us the whole story.

**Mr. Philip:** This isn't a new problem. All members have been aware for some time of the declining farm acreage. We saw the bulldozing of fruit trees in Niagara in the Sixties and we saw the wastage of prime farmland in Ottawa and the "golden horse-shoe" areas.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** Expert farmer.

**Mr. Philip:** I have a membership in the Federation of Agriculture; show me yours.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** I have one, too.

**Mr. Philip:** You do? You certainly don't attend very many meetings.

**Mr. Eaton:** He had one before you knew what it was all about.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Etobicoke has the floor.

**Mr. Philip:** One would think that after 10 years of this, 10 years of MPPs driving through the farmland and seeing it devastated, it would occur to the government that perhaps the 25,000 members in the Federation of Agriculture are not talking nonsense when they ask for a legitimate freeze on

prime farmland; when they ask for a farm income stabilization programme.

**Mr. Eaton:** Did the 25,000 members ask for a freeze?

**Mr. Philip:** Perhaps the leadership of the 25,000—are you suggesting that the leadership of the Federation of Agriculture does not represent the democratic wishes of that organization?

**Mr. Eaton:** You ask some of the leaders.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Etobicoke is making the speech.

**Mr. Philip:** If I may continue after that slur against the one major farm body in this province; several months ago the OFA at its annual convention passed a number of fairly sensible, realistic, concrete resolutions. We on this side of the House questioned the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) as to what specifically he was going to do with these resolutions. His answers were the squiggle type of answers that we continually get from this government, and months later, we can only look at them and see that very little has been done.

So it is with other small business concerns. Let me quote to you from a letter dated March 7, 1976. The letter is signed by James R. Conrad, Director of Policy and Research, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. He says: "Since the recent election in fall, 1975, there has been no significant legislation passed to support small independent business in Ontario."

When the leading spokesman for small businessmen is so upset with this government? There is no doubt that this government stands for private enterprise; the real question is does it stand for free enterprise as they side with the multi-national conglomerates against the small businessmen in this province? Where is the freedom for the private entrepreneur who operates, or should I say used to operate, the independent service station?

I would like to read to you from a letter written on Sept. 20, 1975, to the Premier (Mr. Davis) by a service station lessee.

At the top of the letter there's an obituary notice. It says:

Service Station Business, Died, Sept. 19, 1975. Funeral and burial was held the same day. No mourners or pallbearers were present. Unfair economic conditions caused by the oil-company-operated-and-controlled

gas bars, car washes, self-serves and private brand outlets were the cause of death.

Amen

Months later, the following letter is written to me by a private service station operator.

Dear Mr. Philip:

I have been a Sunoco dealer in Windsor, Ont., since 1947 and a lessee at the above location since 1951. I have enjoyed good relations with the company but I am very worried now, because for the last six months I have been operating without a lease while they made up their mind to conform with the lease guidelines.

Once the company reached this decision, they apparently decided that they should develop a new rent formula and attach it to the new lease that was being presented to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations on Dec. 23, 1975. I suppose Sun Oil Co. hopes to get the blessing of the ministry on this new rent formula and then they will feel much better about presenting it to all Sunoco dealers. The ministry will not realize what drastic effects this new rent formula will have on Sunoco dealers until it is too late.

The results will force many dealers to go out of business because of sharply increased rents that Sun will be demanding. The Sunoco dealers in Ontario need immediate anti-inflation controls on commercial rents similar to those on residential rents.

This new rent formula was not original with Sun. I enclose a copy of Shell's formula dated 1973 and have made a similar chart for Sun's new formula. I am sure you will note the similarity. Sun has probably looked at all other oil company rent formulas and decided that something similar to Shell's would be most profitable and easiest to implement.

On Jan. 28, 1976, our local Sun representative phoned the station and said that the company had reconsidered their proposal and thought that the proposed rent of \$784.93—a 104 per cent rent increase—for the first year of a lease would be unreasonable. He stated that the new proposal would be \$560 a month, which was only a 45.5 per cent increase for the first 12 months; and \$740 per month, a 92.2 per cent increase for the following 24 months.

[5:30]

I still have not been presented with a draft of the new lease for study, but have been told that it would be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1976.

Sun Oil Co. operates three locations with car washes in the city of Windsor. Sunoco dealers have been able to purchase car wash coupons from the company for 75 cents, to sell to our customers for 75 cents if they filled up. This let us keep our customers for gas sales and still allowed the customer to get a cut-rate price for a car wash. Sun Oil is discontinuing this practice because they want to sell all the gallons themselves, that will be cross-merchandised with the washes. We will lose a lot of gas sales because we can't sell wash coupons.

Sun Oil has a long-standing policy whereby dealers with good credit ratings could pay for the first load of gas when the second load was delivered. That is what we call "load-to-load." The dealer had to provide a collateral deposit of \$2,000 as one of the requirements. The company is discontinuing this practice and now wants c.o.d. for all deliveries. This means that a dealer receiving 10,000-gallon drums will have to invest at least another \$5,000 in inventory. Purchases from all other suppliers are paid for the 10th of the month following.

The oil companies maintain high wholesale prices which they like to charge their franchise dealers. It is their practice to sell "distress gasoline" to private branders, jobbers and their own company-operated locations at a price well below what the franchised dealer must pay by special discount and not by lowering the wholesale price. Sun Oil practices this type of marketing policy. This creates price war or distress prices at the retail level, and soon oil company locations are retailing below the dealer's wholesale cost.

Dealers cannot compete with these conditions and so the companies offer dealers a temporary special allowance off the wholesale price if the dealer agrees to retail at a specific price. The dealer gives up as much as 50 per cent of his margin and the right to set the retail price. The company does not set a retail price that will allow the dealer to compete with a company-operated location, and so the dealer continues to lose gasoline sales. Loss of gallonage, loss of profits soon force many dealers out of business.

In October, November and December, 1975, I purchased 116,460 gallons of gasoline from Sun Oil with a special allowance of 5.5 cents per gallon. This amounted to \$6,405.30 off the wholesale price. It would appear that the company is trying to recover some of this amount with the new rent



formula. Dealers have lost their required gross profits to stay in business and now are faced with ever-increasing overheads.

Just on a rough calculation from increased rents, insurance, payroll, fringe benefits, additional investment and so forth, the operating expense of my business for 1976 will increase by \$10,000, or \$50 a day. What can we do to recover this additional expense? Our gross profit on gasoline is 10 per cent and sales are dropping because of lower prices at company-operated locations.

Last week, BP offered their dealers a 5.8 per cent margin with retail price of 76.9 cents. This is only 7.5 per cent gross profit. We need 18 to 20 per cent gross profit to stay in business. How long will it be before Sun Oil offers their dealers the same deal? We cannot increase our gross profits on TBA and parts and stay competitive with the mass merchandisers.

The only thing left would be to increase our charge outrate for mechanical labour, about \$4 an hour. This would provide us with additional gross profit per day if we didn't lose all of our customers. Any loss of gross profits from reduced sales of gasoline and TBA, will only make matters worse and bring an end to us much sooner.

You don't have to use your imagination. This same set of circumstances applies to many service station dealers in Ontario; no lease, no security, no tenure, unfair competition, unfair treatment from our landlord-suppliers. If the government does not act at once the oil companies will have complete control of the retail market. We need sudden action now. Can you help? [It concludes]

I am sorry, but I must ask that you keep my name confidential at this time because I fear more repercussions from the oil company. You will understand my concern from the above facts. I do not want to jeopardize the livelihood of myself and my five employees and their families.

Mr. Martel: Signed by William Davis.

Mr. Philip: I have a letter from the city of Windsor. A resolution was passed by the city of Windsor and it was sent to the Minister of Treasury and Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Council, at its meeting held Dec. 1, 1975, adopted the following resolution:

Whereas there is in the city of Windsor a rapidly increasing number of self-serve gasoline facilities through conversion of the

existing attending stations or construction of new facilities;

And whereas there is concern by the public with the lack of adequate regular maintenance checks, the potential danger from fire or other hazards from the use of such facilities by irresponsible and/or careless persons and the inconvenience caused mothers with children and elderly or disabled persons;

And whereas there is presently no provincial legislation which clearly establishes the authority of municipalities to control the number and location of self-serve stations;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Minister of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs be requested to introduce an amendment to the Municipal Act to clearly establish the authority of municipalities to control the number of locations of self-serve gasoline stations as distinct from regular gasoline stations;

And further, a copy of the resolution be forwarded to other cities.

I was talking to the city clerk at Windsor before I came into the House today. His quote was: "Tell the members of the Legislature that there has been no encouragement from the ministry that the government will be introducing any legislation to meet our city hall's request to control the company-operated self-serve stations in our own area."

[Let me read just one more letter as an example of the kind of insensitivity of this government to the small entrepreneurs who happen, in this case, to be involved in the retail gasoline and service industry.

Dear Mr. Philip:

As requested by your phone conversation there is a summary of our talk.

Starting in December, 1974, or January, 1975, during several talks with BP sales representative Bob Stewart, I was asked my opinion on reducing my retail gas price. Each time I told him I didn't think I could afford to drop the profit on gas and hope to offset the lost revenues by increased sales. In one such talk, Mr. Stewart admitted himself that he did not think it was possible to make the same profit but his only interests were gas sales.

Around the second week of January I was asked by Mr. Stewart to lower the gas price. I again expressed my complete disapproval on lowering the gas price unless BP was going to compensate the loss. This, of course, was out of the question.



A day or two later I received a phone call from Mr. Stewart saying that the company had reconsidered and other methods would be tried to increase gas sales.

On Friday, Jan. 17, 1975, on returning to the station after lunch, I found on the office desk a retail price notification. Questioning my employees, they informed me that it was left there by Mr. Stewart. Shortly afterwards, the Trafalgar plant phoned me and advised me that my wholesale price had been reduced as per a phone call from BP head office. I informed them that I was not reducing the price, therefore, the wholesale price should not be reduced. I also tried unsuccessfully to get hold of Mr. Stewart to inform him of my intention.

On Monday, Jan. 20, Mr. Stewart returned to the station. During a heated discussion I asked him who he thought he was, trying to "fix my gas prices," and at that point he suggested that I forget the whole matter and he would put me back on a regular wholesale price. He also suggested that I return the price notification, but I would not.

Also at that time, I told him that I considered what BP had done by leaving the form unsigned by me with the "stated selling price," as price-fixing and I would not forget the matter. In February, 1975, myself and two other station operators had a meeting with Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I have not had any response from them other than the letter which is enclosed.

The letter that was enclosed is signed by Mr. D. D. Bennett, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Director of Investigation and Research:

Dear Mr. Norton:

Please find enclosed documents which you gave me during our conversation with Mr. Stafford and Mr. Schindler on Thursday, Feb. 6, 1975.

The contents of these documents as well as other information which you provided me will be reviewed in respect to indicating a possible violation of Combines Investigation Act by BP Oil Ltd. At this time I would like to thank you for both your interest and co-operation.

A month and a half later there has been no further communication from the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

All this merely indicates the insensitivity of this government to the plight of the retail service station lessees. There has been petition after petition; there has been representation after representation; and the government continues to say they need more and more time to investigate, that the Isbister commission will somehow come up with some great enlightenment that will cast some light on the service station retailers' plight. But as they are talking and talking and talking and talking and talking, private service station lessees are going out of business.

I have on tape here the stories that clearly indicate oil company intimidations of service station lessees. There is no question in my mind after listening to these tapes, after listening to the voices of the private service station lessees, that the oil companies are using what may not be illegal, but certainly I think most of us would consider immoral, forms of coercion against their own retail service station lessees. I hope in the next few weeks, by contacting each of the dealers who have spoken on these tapes, that I will have their permission to release them to the Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell) and possibly to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry).

I have a service station that I deal with in my riding. I have my car cared for by him. I rather like the fellow, he happens to be a rather effective mechanic. He keeps the rather late model cars I am able to afford on the road. However, a couple of weeks ago, he too threw in the wrench.

The ministry knows about Bob Pike. Bob Pike is president of the Ontario Retail Gasoline and Automotive Service Association. Recently, after eight years in the business, he had mortgaged his home just to stay above water, but even this wasn't enough.

The tragedy is that Bob Pike and others like him across the province need not have been forced out of business. They need not have the kind of situation we have in the city of Windsor today where it's impossible to find a mechanic in the centre core of the city. These people who have devoted their lives to building a business, to serving people in the community, these private entrepreneurs, have been ignored by this government that says it is the representative and the spokesman for free enterprise. There is nothing free about it. They are clearly the spokesmen for the large multi-national conglomerates and not the free enterprise people.

[5:45]



Let me direct my attention to another area where I feel that the Davis free enterprise system appears to be floundering. A few years ago, condominiums were hailed as the great new advance for the working person who at least if he couldn't afford a home, then he might be able to afford an apartment or possibly even a townhouse. There is a great deal of mistrust among condominium owners in my riding; distrust with the developers, distrust over the whole process of transferring ownership and the length of time it takes for that transfer. There is a considerable number of people who feel that somehow they don't happen to have the skills to go in and inspect the construction and the workmanship on a condominium because they don't happen to be electricians, mechanics, plasterers, plumbers and so forth.

There is considerable dissatisfaction by purchasers of condominiums who, because they know the Ontario Mortgage Corp. holds or guarantees their mortgages, somehow felt the government was doing something to protect their investment and at least be able to say the place isn't going to fall down in a few years.

The idea of condominiums as a moderately-priced alternative to renting has gone. One only has to look around in the Toronto area and see that the \$17,000 one-bedroom condominium that some people were able to afford a few years ago is no longer available because they are now in the \$30,000 range.

There is frustration in a few condominiums that the government is doing little to assist their board members in developing the kinds of skills necessary to run what in fact amount to large corporations. The government has done very little, although there are a few courses given if one happens to want to search for them at community colleges and if one happens to be available on the particular night. But the whole process of democratically running an organization is not just something one runs a course on at a community college. It is something that one works on with the people in a particular group, and works on with their elected officers and helps them to see the processes by which they can effectively run this new venture.

Lastly, there is the growing frustration by many more people who look around and see that the ratio of condominiums to rental apartments is very high. They can't afford a condominium, but they look around and they see that rental units are not being built.

Is it just popular mythology that certain construction companies that build both ren-

tal and condominium buildings put inferior materials into the condominiums, but the buildings that they are going to rent and are going to keep renting for a number of years seem to have superior kinds of materials and superior kinds of workmanship?

That's the story of condominiums in this province. In many cases, the government appears to be sitting by while cheap construction and materials go into the building and higher maintenance costs follow. In one condominium in the riding just south of my riding the monthly maintenance fee has gone from something like \$40 to \$200 inside of two years. The reason is, the whole place is falling apart. The people who bought that condominium in good faith and saw Ontario Housing or Ontario Mortgage Corp. in evidence thought that somehow the government was doing something to inspect these buildings—that there was some kind of consumer protection for them.

One looks at walls that are falling in. One even looks at drains that are actually taps that are below the surface of the lawn, so that if fertilizer is applied and then one happens to get a high rain, the fertilizer can back up into the drinking water. One looks at walls that are ready to cave in on children or on the parking lot. One looks at multi-million-dollar suits that the directors of these condominiums are in some cases faced with having to launch to try to get their money out of the developer. One asks, "What kind of leadership in housing is this government giving when it allows this kind of thing to go on and apparently seems to be on the side of the developer?"

There are a lot of good developers in this province. There are a lot of developers who want to build good condominiums and give people their money's worth. But this government is ruining the name of the condominium by doing nothing in allowing a few fly-by-night shysters to get away with the kind of shoddy workmanship that is going into some of these buildings. The whole thrust of middle- and low-income people is that they bought these condominiums with an expectation that they were somehow going to stabilize their costs for housing, and suddenly they found enormous maintenance costs as a result of the roofs caving in and walls that no longer stand up and that need to be repaired.

Mr. Speaker, lest you think that condominiums are the only area where the government is faulted in housing, let me tell you about this morning. This morning I received a call at 6:30 from constituents at 75 Tan-



dridge. It happens to be an Ontario Housing building.

The problem was that the people in that building found themselves once again in several inches of water. The poor superintendent, when I met him, was almost in tears. I'm told that the night before then he'd shed gallons of perspiration over what had happened, apparently in the middle of the night. The building is eight years old, yet the pipes have to be completely replaced. Some of the maintenance people that I talked to and some of the plumbers I managed to have a chat with in the hall, estimate that the cost to the taxpayer will be somewhere around \$200,000. I don't know how accurate that figure is. All I know is that pipes that were put into that building eight years ago are having to be replaced and the taxpayers are paying for it; and the people in that Ontario Housing building are faced with the inconvenience of having their property destroyed by water seepage.

One woman today told me she had had no less than eight calls for the plumber because of leakage; that's the kind of harassment these people are suffering as a result of poor construction.

Not only does the government not protect the investors of condominiums, it doesn't even protect its own investments, when we get a building like this where the plumbing is falling apart.

It can only be hoped that this government will be sensitive to some of the things that are going on in the building industry, that it will show some empathy for the concerns of not only the investors but also of the taxpayers regarding some of the construction that is going up.

No inspection of material, no control; it's more than just popular mythology. Let's look at the problem and let's do something about it.

The last area I'd like to deal with briefly is that of transportation. If ever there was an area where the squiggle approach is used, it's in transportation. The fact is that one cannot help but conclude there is no transportation programme, merely an ever-changing assortment of starts and stops depending on which pressure group happens to push hardest.

First there was Spadina, then there wasn't Spadina; now there is—well, it's kind of Spadina.

Then there was an airport to be built at Pickering. A few people in Malton breathed a sigh of relief and said: "My goodness,

maybe that will take a little bit of the traffic from over our heads"; although we have some concerns about destroying farmland, which this government has never been too concerned about.

Then, of course, there wasn't Pickering. But there is still noise and no concrete evidence that this government is prepared to do anything after it has stopped Pickering to really look at the kinds of problems in the Rexdale and in the Malton area, particularly the noise pollution that we are suffering as a result of a decision, which may have been a good decision—and was a good decision and one I happen to agree with—but nonetheless was a decision that affected another part of the population and no counter measures are being taken to counterbalance it.

Somehow the problem is not in the government's picture. The government does not have a global picture of transportation. Oh we know that the government isn't too worried about us up in the northwest corner of Metro. They certainly want to put more and more people into our areas; they even want to allow companies to build large buildings along our valley lands and destroy some of the finest nature trails in the whole city. The only consolation we have is that we're going to have more and more people to accompany us as we take 1½ hours to go downtown on the bus every morning. What we do know is that the government is interested in doing very, very little in terms of a global plan.

During the last session, the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) and I introduced a resolution asking that a select committee of this Legislature look at transportation needs in this part of Ontario, and in particular to consider the problems faced by the Malton area over noise pollution. The government has in no way responded to this. We will be reintroducing that kind of resolution.

I am encouraged by some of the remarks by the member for York West (Mr. Leluk), who at least expressed some interest and some understanding of some of the transportation needs in the area, and I would hope that he at least would urge his colleagues to set up a select committee to look at this problem.

What is at stake in transportation is not whether we build an airport here and an expressway there. What is at stake is whether we develop some kind of long-term objectives for transportation so that our citizens know what the rules of the game are, what is at stake is whether or not we are serious in



levelling with the public instead of playing one riding off against another. What is at stake is whether we are willing to take transportation out of the realm of political caprice.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether there will be an election after April 5. I am really not concerned. I understand that one of the ministers feels that God is on the side of the Conservatives—at least that's what he said; he said, if I quote him correctly, "Christianity and Conservatism are natural allies." God is on the side of the self-righteous Conservative government. It's so evident: They have been in power for 32 years; obviously God put them there.

This is the same man, of course, who says that order and Christianity are somehow linked. He says that he would like to see our teenagers carrying identification cards with their signatures, fingerprints, photographs and Lord knows what else on them.

Mr. Speaker, if this is his version of Christianity, I can only suggest that Joe Stalin should have been canonized, because he employed that technique far more precisely and far more scientifically than the Conservatives will ever master in Ontario.

In the next election, what we are facing very simply is a choice of government—a choice of continuing the kind of government by squiggle that we have experienced in the last few years, government without any objectives, or a government by the NDP with concrete objectives that everybody can examine and that people can vote for.

Mr. Eakins: Never.

Mr. Germa: Call the election. Call the election.

Mr. Riddell: Wishful thinking.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Ontario. Legislative Assembly

# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

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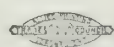
Tuesday, March 30, 1976

Evening Session

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Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe  
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

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TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

## THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

**Mr. McKessock:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your high office and I know that you will give us, who sit on your left, continued fair treatment.

Coming from the riding of Grey, which is 50 per cent rural, I find it encouraging that the Throne Speech promised legislation enabling a voluntary farm income stabilization plan. The discouraging part is that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) will not give us a date when we can expect such legislation.

The government does nothing to hold farmers on farms in Ontario. This is quite evident by the fact that 1971 census figures show that between 1966 and 1971, 26 acres of improved agricultural land went out of production in Ontario each hour. This may have slowed up some in the past five years, but it is questionable.

Considerable amounts are going for Hydro corridors without thought or input from the farmer. Hydro argues corridors don't take up much land. I wonder how many of them have ever tried to steer machinery around or work a field that had a Hydro corridor going angularly across it. If they would keep these corridors along lot lines the farmer would certainly appreciate it. I believe that the power stations at Douglas Point should be stopped from further expansion and power stations shifted up north to encourage development away from good agricultural land.

The way to make sure this land stays in agriculture is to make sure the farmer gets a decent return for his labour, his interest on investment and his management ability. If this was being done, you would not have to worry about land going out of production because it just wouldn't be for sale.

You may say that we have too much production now and this is true. I will say that Ontario has had a good agricultural research programme for some years now, probably too good. The farmers have been quick to pick it up. Farmers have greatly increased their

efficiency over the last 20 years, only to find that their talents, hard work and increased efficiency have worked against them to create surpluses, to lower prices and to give a reduced net income.

The result is that farmers in Ontario are quickly being reduced. Some are leaving because it doesn't make economic sense to stay there when you can get more money from the interest on the sale of the land than you can by farming it. Some are going bankrupt, not because they are inefficient but because their costs have skyrocketed. They have large debt loads and their incomes have been reduced so that they cannot meet their payments.

Some are retiring and not being replaced because their sons don't like the odds they face—such as unstable markets, surpluses, debt loads of \$200,000 to \$300,000—to establish what is supposed to be an economic unit. Unless his father gives him a terrific start, he is better off to put on his hat and walk down the road where he can pick up a \$5 to \$10 per hour job with nothing invested, every holiday and weekend off and finishing promptly at 5 o'clock whether it looks like rain or not.

We are making a mistake by letting these farmers go. Farmers are the only people I know who will work for \$2 an hour, 14 hours a day, and never tire or squabble—as long as they are making money. But when they lose money they get tired and squabble—and rightly so.

Overproduction seems to be our problem: We overproduce and our incomes drop. No wonder I'm a bit skeptical when our party whip, the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. B. Newman), keeps at me to produce in the Legislature. Being a farmer, I can't help but be a little afraid of overproduction.

I wonder how many in this House have ever worked a whole year for nothing. Just suppose the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) said to you: "We didn't make any money last year, so you'll have to pay back all the money we gave you; and it depends on what kind of year we have this year whether you get any wages or not this year." This is exactly the kind of situation the farmers



face. Not all the commodities at the same time but most of them, in their turn, come up to this situation sooner or later.

I say again we are making a mistake in letting these farmers go. Once they leave the farms, they will not come back. Agriculture is a continuous, ongoing resource. Too many of our resources are terminal by their very nature, not by lack of attention as in farming. For the benefit of the producer and the consumer alike, and Ontario as a whole, we should be giving agriculture some really deep thought as a resource that has established this country and as a resource that will pull it through again if we prepare now to give it a chance later.

The government should be coming in now with an income protection plan for farmers to make sure that all efficient farmers are able to stay on the farms with a decent income that will allow their sons to follow in their footsteps, without fear of falling markets putting them out of business.

We were promised, by the former Minister of Agriculture and Food, that an income protection plan would be in place before the seeds went in the ground a year ago. Evidently he missed seeding last year.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has offered to help administer this plan. This is an offer we cannot refuse. If we are working with agriculture, we must fully involve the farmer. If we are working with industry, we must involve the industry people. If we are working with energy, we must involve the energy people.

Surely nobody would grudge the farmer \$5 an hour for his labour—a secretary makes more than that—as interest on his investment and a nominal fee for his management ability. This cost would be worked out on a per unit basis and each farmer would be allowed to produce enough units to allow for an economic operation. Price per unit would be worked out between the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The farmer would be paid accordingly for the number of units that would provide him with an economic operation. If he produced more than this amount, it would be sold on the open market at market price. If, by reason of exceptional management ability, the farmer could produce cheaper than the established price, it would be to his gain. If, by reason of poor knowledge, he could not produce the product for the established price, he would be forced out of business.

No doubt there will be a small percentage of farmers who will be against such a plan; therefore, the plan should be voluntary. A questionnaire which I sent out in my riding showed a majority of farmers in favour of an income protection plan. The OFA has 25,000 members, representing a large number of Ontario farmers, and is pushing for legislation to allow for an income protection plan to be established. The plan should have a premium paid one-third by the farmer and two-thirds by the government. This plan would allow consumers to buy foods continuously at a reasonable cost and would allow farmers to farm continuously at a reasonable profit.

When I talk about a unit this could mean 100 lb of beef or pork or milk or chicken; or a bushel of apples or wheat or corn, etc. It could work for all farm commodities.

I have just briefly outlined the plan. I do not believe this plan would produce that much more, if any, than we are producing right now, but if it did it would be up to the government to establish markets for it.

Other provinces within Canada have established good export markets for food. There is and there will be in the future a great need for food. Once the plan is in place and we want more food, either for home consumption or for export markets, all we have to do in five or 10 years from now is increase the number of units in the plan and you've got it, because you are going to have those farmers still here.

It is just like having an oil well which never runs dry running at half speed; 10 years down the road open the tap a little more and you've got it. A little further down the road the oil may be done but maybe the Arabs will still have some and maybe they would like some food for it. If we don't make an effort to keep these farmers here 10 years from now when we go to open the food tap it will be dry like the oil wells.

We in Ontario who eat well and are used to sitting down at the first table will then be sitting at the second sitting. The farmer doesn't strike for more money not only because he feels strikes are senseless and a waste but also because if he did, he wouldn't even get a holiday which most strikers are able to enjoy.

If the farmer did strike and the food was destroyed and the milk dumped down the drain, there would be an awful public outcry about such waste. Think about it. It would be no more wasteful than a people strike because this is a waste of time. In



today's society you must agree that time is more valuable than food. If it were not the farmers would be the richest people in this country, and it just is not this way.

We talk about being held at a 10 per cent increase in pay. Give the farmers a 10 per cent increase in pay and you will see a very happy lot of people. The dairy farmers in Ontario have had their federal subsidies cut 25 per cent. This gives them a six per cent cut in total income. If we had a provincial income protection plan in effect now it would take over in Ontario and protect our dairy farmers. We in Ontario have to stop leaving things that concern this province to the federal government. This province continues to decline each year in its share of agricultural production in Canada. The consumers' association should be pressing government to make sure we keep all the efficient farmers we have left in Ontario now—

**An hon. member:** Where's the minister's assistant?

**Mr. McKessock:** If we don't and we let the production drop and the production gets into the hands of a few, watch the prices rise. Then we will be lucky to get enough to eat let alone trade some for oil.

**Mr. Speaker,** before I leave agriculture I would like to mention a little about community pastures. Community pastures within the community are tracts of marginal land which are bought and developed by the rural development branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in consultation with the community pasture board. This is a board set up within the local community.

Community pastures allow farmers, especially young farmers, to rent this pasture at an economical rate per animal while they use their capital to build up their other farm operations. The land is too expensive for them to purchase all the land they need at one time. Community pastures have been a great influence on land use, turning land which produces very little into land producing ten-fold more.

This land in the past has been bought for \$150 an acre and developed for another \$150, for a total of \$300 per acre. With increased costs today it will take \$450 an acre to purchase and develop. The rural development branch pays only \$300. In order to carry on this very worthwhile project we would ask the Minister of Agriculture and Food to supply interest-free loans to provide for this extra \$150 an acre. This loan would be paid off by—

**Mr. O'Neil:** Any Ontario farmers here?

**Mr. McKessock:** This loan would be paid off by the income received from the farmers pasturing their cattle in the community pasture programme. A surcharge would be charged per animal to discharge the loan.

[8:15]

I would like now to cover another area that affects a great many of the people in the riding of Grey. This is the Niagara Escarpment control area. This affects not only farmers but developers and landowners of any kind. The Act reads that once this plan is finalized it will be renewed every five years. We would like it shelved for five years now, to take another look at it five years from now. We are the people who have preserved it for the last 200 years. We would like to continue for at least another five. By that time we expect to have a Liberal government in Ontario and they just might not steal our possessions on it. They have told me they are going to be fair and just, allowing the individual to maintain his rights. That's why I joined the party.

**Mr. Riddell:** If the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman) wants to keep his farm, he better come across the floor.

**Mr. Cunningham:** Not to mention his nursing home.

**Mr. McKessock:** If by some unjustified move this Niagara Escarpment plan continues, the control area of 1,280,000 acres must be reduced to about 300 ft, more or less, from the face of the escarpment. This would entail less than 22,000 acres which could be purchased by the government at a fair market value.

There are many areas of marginal land within the Niagara Escarpment area. The contour of the land and tree cover is such that many building lots could be created and never noticed. It would not change the natural environment one little bit, but it would provide beautiful living quarters for many people who would like to live in our area.

**An hon. member:** Minister of Housing, sit up and take note there.

**Mr. McKessock:** It would also provide some income for the farmer who would like to sell a lot or two and retire on the farm.

Did you people realize that a landowner cannot even sell, or give, a lot to his son or daughter unless he is going to remain on the farm; and then it is limited to one lot?

I have four children. I think I should be able to sever a lot for each one of them. I would—

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** What happened to your agricultural land policy? Out the window!

**Mr. Kerrio:** You didn't hear the rest of it, you just got here.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Nixon:** Why didn't you wait a little while, John?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** You guys are all awake anyway.

**Mr. McKessock:** Read it in Hansard tomorrow—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Grey has the floor.

**Mr. Riddell:** The question is, where is your agricultural land?

**Mr. Ruston:** Answer that, John.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Right here.

**Mr. McKessock:** To sever a lot for each one of my children would improve the look of the countryside.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Grey has the floor. Would the rest of the members give him the courtesy of listening instead of speaking?

**Mr. McKessock:** These lots would improve the look of the countryside, especially for that family. I would like to think that families are still important. I would like to refer again to the questionnaire I sent out to my constituents. I asked the question: "Should a landowner be allowed to sever a lot for any member of his family?" Eighty-four-point-seven per cent were in favour.

What some farmers don't understand is the difference in locality. What is good for one part of the province is not necessarily good for the other. What is good for one part of Grey riding, which stretches some 90 by 60 miles, is not necessarily good for the other part. This is why we believe the final decisions on regulations should be left to the local municipality and their elected members of council and not undertaken by appointed people in Toronto or other areas.

I would like to give you an example of how these restrictions work. A person who owns a 35-acre piece of property, all grass and weeds, in Kimberly, sold it subject to

approval of the Niagara Escarpment Commission giving a building permit for a nice chalet which would have enhanced the beauty of the countryside. The building permit was not granted by the Niagara Escarpment Commission. This means that this party now has to hold this parcel of lands and weeds for the rest of us to look at for ever and ever, at his expense.

Interjections.

**Mr. McKessock:** I have had people call me who have fought in the last world war for freedom in this country. They say although they won the war, they are now losing their freedom.

**Mr. Nixon:** We might as well live in Russia.

**Mr. McKessock:** In 1973, the government of Ontario established a Pits and Quarries Control Act. This Act makes it difficult and in some cases impossible to obtain gravel for our roads within a short hauling distance. This increases the cost in maintenance of the roads. Our roads are mostly gravel roads. Is this government going to give us increased grants to cover these imposed extra costs or are our roads going to continue to deteriorate?

In times of inflation such as these, this Act is unacceptable in its present form and must be changed. We agree with the rehabilitation of gravel pits when they run out, but not every time you take some gravel out of them. We, in our area, can live with gravel pits. You never really notice anything wrong with them and still don't. Nothing looks better than a nice pile of fresh gravel or a freshly gravelled road. It gets rid of the bumps.

If we don't get some of these laws changed we may have to have another election and get rid of some of the bumps in the government.

**Mr. Eaton:** Are you going to call it on Monday?

Interjections.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Don't provoke them.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. McKessock:** The controls embodied in the Pits and Quarries Control Act and the Niagara Escarpment Protection Act are putting the small operator out of business and cutting competition, and the large operator is laughing all the way to the bank. Give the small guy a break. Don't force us to come



down here to the big city. I know you are nice people, but instead of us coming down here we invite you to our area.

We would like to develop the small towns and villages and the countryside more. We like it there; you will too. In order for us to develop, however, we must be allowed to keep our schools, our churches, our nursing homes and our senior citizen apartments; and in order to do this we must also be allowed to keep our hospitals.

I question the reasoning and economics of some of the programmes of this government. When we are told that Chesley Hospital keeps per day bed costs at \$77-a-day; and Durham, where the per-day bed cost is \$70 must close to save money; and then we move the patients to a hospital where the per-day bed cost is \$85 to \$105; and when we learn some city hospital beds run nearly \$200 a day it just doesn't make sense. Maybe this is another new math in our new educational system.

Small-town people have always worked together to raise money and help support the local hospitals. Durham even has a volunteer ambulance service. The people in the small towns didn't create the health cost problem. Why should we be penalized for it?

There is something about the nursing home regulations I don't like. I believe so many units should be allowed in each town or village, not a blanket of so many in each county. When the regulations say so many beds in a county, they can all end up in one town. I think retiring in dignity means being able to retire in the town, village or area in which you spent your life and where your friends are.

If, when you get older you have to move out of your area, and away from your friends to go to a hospital, a nursing home, or a senior citizens' apartment, you might just as well shoot us. I hate to say that, because the way we're being pushed around in the small communities, I'm afraid by the time I reach retirement that is what will be happening.

**Mr. Nixon:** Unless we have a Liberal government.

**Mr. McKessock:** Before I get too far away from the Ministry of Natural Resources and its infringements on our rights, I would like to say that landowners should not have to put up signs to keep people off their property. It should be automatically trespassing if people go on land without written permission from the landowner. This must be made law.

I'd like to refer again to my questionnaire. I asked the question: "Should it be law that hunters and fishermen must carry written permission from landowners to be on their land?" Response was 80.4 per cent in favour.

**Mr. Norton:** They should enforce it with shotguns too.

**Mr. McKessock:** Why should a landowner have to go to all that expense and waste of time putting up signs every 50 ft, or whatever it is, to keep people off his own property?

Interjections.

**Mr. McKessock:** Why shouldn't it be that potential trespassers have to get permission before entering private property?

One other thing we would like to see changed is that the hunting season should be determined by township councils in consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources for each local township.

**Mr. Angus:** Councils? You're kidding.

**Mr. McKessock:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk for a minute about small businessmen and the small wage earners. They are sometimes run down by saying they have the same chance as everybody else. This is not true. When the fellow making \$5,000 a year gets a 10 per cent raise, he gets \$500. When the man making \$25,000 gets a 10 per cent raise, he gets \$2,500. Is this fair?

**Mr. Nixon:** Or a cabinet minister making \$42,000.

**Mr. McKessock:** Is that giving the small guy an equal chance? The \$500 to the low wage earner is a necessity. The \$2,500 to the high wage earner is a luxury. No wonder the rich get richer and the poor get poorer; we encourage it.

**Mr. Eakins:** Are they still taking the five per cent off?

**Mr. McKessock:** Why not give a guy who makes under \$8,000, \$500 off on a new car or a used car instead of giving the sales tax rebate to everybody like the government did?

**An hon. member:** Restraint, but you still will be getting your five per cent.

**Mr. McKessock:** Ninety-five per cent of those who took advantage of the sales tax on cars would have bought cars anyway.



Why don't we give a \$1,500 first-home buyers' grant to people who make under \$15,000 or only on homes under \$35,000?

Mr. Nixon: They like to buy votes from the rich people, too.

Mr. McKessock: This would help to keep down inflation by encouraging people to buy lower-priced homes.

We should give lower interest rate loans to small businesses of \$100,000 or less instead of always giving the breaks to the large operator. We seem to forget that the small businessman still employs over half of all working Canadians. This information was taken from the most recent taxation statistics. The small businessman doesn't want a lot of handouts but he wants equal opportunity. Given equal opportunity the small operator will never go broke.

I don't want to have more than one negative paragraph at a time without coming in with a positive one. During the election campaign I stressed one thing that I thought should be done by all governments. That was to put three or four questions of importance regarding government on the ballot on election day for the voters to answer. For example: "Are you in favour of compulsory seat belts?" "Are you in favour of capital punishment?" "Is there too much violence on TV?"

At the close of election day we would have the answers, far better than any royal commission; and the voters wouldn't charge a cent.

I mentioned capital punishment. We may say this is a federal issue but here again I think we should take a stand as a province. If Ontario could say to the federal government the people in Ontario are in favour of capital punishment or they are against, I think it would have a lot of weight in the decision-making in Ottawa.

Right now I have a petition with 1,100 names on it from a small town in the riding of Grey, supporting capital punishment. When I sent out my questionnaire to the riding that was one of the questions. Seventy-nine point four per cent were in favour of capital punishment. I think we should find out what the people feel and want and take a stand as a province.

I would like to mention a little short bit on education. I don't believe that students should be out of school for 30 days or even 30 minutes due to strikes. A few years ago, we went to school from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with no spares; and that is the way it should still be. Go into the secondary school yard

today and we find students out in the yard smoking almost any time of the day. This doesn't only promote, it prolongs the drug situation which exists in our schools today.

I would certainly like to persuade the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) to put a stop to students' free time during school hours. I would also like to persuade him to encourage more discipline in the schools. Coupled with no free time this would make it much easier for parents and teachers trying to raise our children.

I would like to mention a little bit about the tourist area—the great tourist area we have in the riding of Grey.

(The growing town of Meaford on Georgian Bay, with its great harbour and greater potential, hopes to embark on a harbour development programme, in co-operation with Environment Canada's small craft harbour branch and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Great Lakes access programme, to further develop the harbour there so as to enable it to tie up several hundred small boats. I took a delegation from Meaford to meet the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) today, and we hope to get the programme under way in about eight weeks' time.

The Georgian Bay Sports Fishery Advisory Board has been working for many years to promote fishing in the area. This harbour development will certainly give the sports fishermen and these commercial fishermen a greater opportunity to expand. With pleasure craft in Canada increasing at a rate of 12 per cent a year, a marina of this magnitude in Meaford will certainly be an asset to the town and to the province as a whole.

The riding of Grey consists of 13 of the 16 townships in Grey county; the towns and villages of Hanover, Meaford, Durham, Markdale, Thornbury, Dundalk, Flesherton, Chatsworth and Neustadt; the township of Minto in Wellington county; and the towns and villages of Palmerston, Harriston and Clifford and the township of Melancthon in Dufferin county. I believe I have the most beautiful riding in Ontario in terms of countryside—and the most beautiful people.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say how happy I am to be here representing the riding of Grey. While I am here I will try to inject honesty, fairness and common sense into this government. Thank you.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of privilege that I rise to participate in the Throne Speech debate as the member of this Legislature for York



Mills, which for those of my colleagues who do not know, is a riding of almost 30,000 households in the northwestern area of the borough of North York in Metropolitan Toronto.

**Mr. Reid:** I am from the northwest too.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Slightly farther northwest. It was a riding which was designated during the last election as significant by certain of the print media for, I believe, the wrong reasons. York Mills was described by the *Globe and Mail* as the riding of affluence. There are some within that riding who do in fact fit that description—

**Mr. Reid:** There are a lot of doctors there, we understand.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —but in truth the riding of York Mills encompasses the complete range of socio-economic classifications which are so dear to the heart of classical sociologists. The significance of the riding of York Mills lies not in its affluence, so-called, but in the quality of its citizens. They are concerned and committed human beings of all races and all creeds, with dozens of different national backgrounds, all living in harmony.

**Mr. Nixon:** This speech is going to be mailed out at public expense.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Only the Grits do that.

**Mr. Reid:** You are meeting a multicultural group tomorrow night; they'll be surprised when they hear that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The citizens of my riding are concerned not only about those issues that touch them personally, but also the larger issues which face their community, their province and their society as a whole. The list of occupations of the citizens of York Mills spans the total glossary of human vocations—in the trades, in the professions, in labour, in management, in business, in industry and in all of the arts. But whatever their occupation, the citizens of York Mills demonstrate daily, with their diligence, the value of work as a human need.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Do you hear that word, Pat?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** They are all workers, whether they are labourers or lawyers, tradespeople or teachers, musicians or managers, employees or proprietors. They have interests ranging far and wide beyond their elec-

toral boundaries, they devote time to informed support of community activities, and energy to invaluable voluntary service in a wide variety of organizations directed toward social and cultural progress, service which I think none of us in government should ever ignore for it is, in fact, priceless to the advancement of society. It is for me a real honour to represent each and every one of those citizens within that riding.

**Mr. Reid:** Each of whom is going to get a copy of your speech.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** As a matter of fact, they are not going to get a copy of my speech.

**Mr. Reid:** You are getting politically wiser every day.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** I think they deserve a copy of that excellent speech.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** For me it is a great pleasure as well to function as the Minister of Labour of this province, and I believe that I fit that role reasonably well, because I lived almost all of my life in the work-oriented riding of York Mills and I've spent 27 years as a worker in the field of community health services.

**Mr. Mancini:** Now you sound like Stephen Lewis.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** No, I don't. I sound like me. These are very difficult times, troublesome times, troublesome for all of society and rampant with change and economic stresses. Almost the only constants in our society at the moment are change and stress and they're reflected, I think, increasingly in the visible conflict and confrontation and the general disenchantment which our society seems to be expressing about the world in which we live and the institutions with which we function. These conflicts certainly have a disruptive effect in both the industrial and the service sectors of our society.

I don't really think that the reportage which we get in all of our media does much to improve our disenchantment with certain institutions. Certainly it does nothing but to fortify the disenchantment which a very large number of the citizens of this province feel presently about the labour-management relationship in this province and in this country. Unfortunately, the reportage usually ignores completely the almost 95 per cent success rate which the collective bargaining negotiations in the Province of Ontario achieve every year.

**Mr. Martel:** That's the Tories, crying all the time.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** And it does tend, I'm afraid, to emphasize those situations where failures of collective bargaining result in work stoppage.

**Mr. Martel:** It is your colleagues who stress that continuously over the years.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Unfortunately, the recent failures of collective bargaining have had a very serious impact on our provincial economy and on our national economy, and they are perceived, unfortunately as well, by the public as symptomatic of some dreadful distortion within the process of collective bargaining which it is felt, I'm afraid generally, may yet precipitate economic disaster in this jurisdiction.

Flawed it may be by continued emphasis upon the adversary system, but the collective bargaining process, I believe, is the least imperfect of all of those methods yet devised for relationships between employers and employees. It does suffer today from the lack of recognition of many things. It suffers from a lack of recognition of changing characteristics within our society. It suffers from a lack of understanding of the increasing interdependence of the groups within our society. It suffers from a failure to appreciate the general improvement in the level of knowledge of all citizens in this province. It suffers from a failure to utilize the increased ability which most of the general public now possess, and it also suffers from a failure to assimilate sophisticated information as readily as it should, as well as a failure to exploit new skills and new expertise devised by a variety of disciplines.

But I think it suffers most from a slavish perpetuation of old, ill-founded and poorly developed bargaining techniques.

On behalf of the public generally, and on behalf particularly of the parties to the bargaining process, the Ministry of Labour of this province is embarking now upon a thorough examination of the entire collective bargaining system. Our objective is not simply to examine it, but to isolate those defects which can be demonstrated therein, and to propose, to develop, and to implement improvements which will be therapeutic to the system itself, and further to the entirety of the labour-management relationship.

I am sure that my colleagues within the House recognize that recent personnel changes within the ministry, with the appointment of several individuals with great expertise in

labour-management relations, will enhance the Ministry of Labour's capability in carrying out this very important task.

The Ontario Labour Relations Board, as well, has been strengthened recently by new appointments, so that its service, I believe, will be very much more readily available to both labour and to management throughout the length and the breadth of the province.

**Mr. Reid:** You will have to change the law.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Augmented as it has been by recent changes in the Labour Relations Act, I was very much disturbed to find that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) has persisted in making misleading statements, particularly throughout northern Ontario, towards the end of the late, very disturbing, pulp and paper strike. He was consistently—

**Mr. Reid:** He is consistent anyway.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —you are right—moving from town to town in northern Ontario, telling the local labour leaders and the local municipal leaders that it was the responsibility of the government to lay charges of bad-faith bargaining against the pulp and paper companies, knowing full well that the Labour Relations Act empowered either party to bargaining to lay those charges.

I further learned that not only was he making those statements falsely throughout the north, but at a public meeting at York University, which in fact was recorded, I learned that the hon. Leader of the Opposition, without any supportive evidence or shred of documentation, when asked by a student to explain what he meant when he said the government should lay charges of bad-faith bargaining, said well, of course, it was the government's responsibility.

The student who responded stated that it was his understanding that either party could lay such a charge at the feet of the Labour Relations Board, and could have a hearing. The Leader of the Opposition then publicly stated that the Labour Relations Board in the Province of Ontario was a joke and a farce and that no self-respecting union in this province would ever—

**Mr. Martel:** Hear, hear; absolutely.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Absolutely.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —lay a case before the Labour Relations Board. I would like the Leader of the Opposition to know that, in



fact, one union has taken up his challenge. The result was reported last week and the case was found in favour of the union.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** After how many years?

Interjections.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** That was the very first application that had ever been made by any union with the changes in the Labour Relations Act and the union won the case. I can really only wonder whether, in fact, the hon. Leader of the Opposition considers the recent board decision regarding a man very close to his own heart, which found in that gentleman's favour, to be equally farcical with his view of the Labour Relations Board.

If he does, I hope he remembers it for a long time.

**Mr. Renwick:** There are significant changes with a minority government, aren't there?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The favourable opinions expressed generally by organized labour, members and leaders throughout the province regarding the work of the Labour Relations Board in this province certainly do not support the view presented by the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Renwick:** They certainly did up until the last year, no question.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** There have been significant reorganizations as well within the labour services division within the last two months. As you know, we are attempting diligently to improve ministry responsiveness and effectiveness in terms of employees' and employers' needs and requests related to safety programmes, and to legislation, employment standards and employment—

**Mr. Martel:** That's a farce.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The branches have been co-ordinated into a labour services division which, I want the hon. members to realize, will ensure better communication, and enhance co-operation with district officers and between the programmes of the labour service division.

In addition to that, we have established a pilot project to test and to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of decentralization of ministry service. The pilot project region which has been chosen is southwestern Ontario with its headquarters in London.

**Mr. Renwick:** It's always southwestern Ontario benefiting. Just try it in Riverdale.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** It is proposed that this pilot project will be tested and evaluated consistently throughout the next year and the report will be made available to this House upon its effects and efficiencies in March, 1977.

**Mr. Renwick:** This is a death bed repentance.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please.

**Mr. Martel:** Your industrial history is a disgrace.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** What are you chirping about?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Just to make the hon. member for Sudbury East a little happier, I'll now talk a little bit about occupational health and safety.

**Mr. Martel:** Your record is a disaster.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** It's not nearly as disastrous as the hon. member for Sudbury East is, but that's a minor detail.

**Mr. Renwick:** Talk about occupational health. Don't be cheap.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The importance of occupational health and safety is growing within this ministry, with the assumption of responsibility for co-ordination for in-plant pre-development reviews which will assist us to ensure that potential occupational health hazards—

**Mr. Martel:** Only the seals behind you believe that.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —in proposed industry will be fully recognized in order that maximal health protection of all workers—

**Mr. Renwick:** You cannot do it by structural changes, you have got to do it by law.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —may in fact be built into a plant before it is constructed. In addition, the Ministry of Labour is going to be responsible for, and is responsible now, for ongoing monitoring in existing industrial sites, utilizing the consultative services of the occupational health specialists to augment this role of continuing—

**Mr. Martel:** Another disaster area.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —critical surveillance of the industrial workplace on behalf of Ontario workers.

**Mr. Renwick:** What increase in staff are you going to have for that purpose?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The Occupational and Environmental Health Advisory Council is in place and I'm happy to say functioning.

**Mr. Martel:** Oh fine, it has been in place for a long time.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** It is indeed. Its membership, as I'm sure the hon. members know, is tri-partite in nature and it is an extremely functional group, a group which is working actively and effectively together in a non-partisan way on behalf of the health and safety of the workers of this province.

**Mr. Renwick:** Like scurvy in the Mutiny on the Bounty.

**Mr. Martel:** It's too bad somebody wasn't partisan in favour of the worker for a change.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** That committee, along with the health accord mechanisms about to be implemented, will ensure that the government's high priority in occupational health will benefit from the total co-operation and co-ordination of prevention and correction policies, and programmes of the four ministries involved under a co-operative framework which is headed by the Ministry of Health.

The advisory council right now is examining and recommending standards for safe levels of a number of chemicals and compounds which may be found within the workplace in this province, but it is also examining very carefully the possible role and function of an institute of occupational health and it will bring its recommendation to the Ministry of Health within a very short period of time.

**Mr. Renwick:** This is unbelievable.

**Mr. Martel:** In another 100 years.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I think it is important to know that in fact there is a strong commitment on the part of the government through those four ministries to the total picture of occupational health and safety in this province.

**Mr. Renwick:** There is no strong commitment and the minister knows it.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Every effort is going to be directed toward improving Ontario and making it truly the safest place in Canada or in North America in which to work.

I would like to say a little something about the other ministry—

**Mr. Kerrio:** You are shirking parliamentary responsibility.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —for which I have assumed some responsibility during the last 10 days and I think that probably the thing I should talk about is the restraint programme.

**Mr. Mancini:** You don't want to talk about that.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Yes, I do want to talk about it, because all of you keep talking about dollars all of the time and that is not the only purpose of this programme within the Ministry of Health.

**Mr. Renwick:** That wasn't the purpose and you can't waste dollars.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** But restraint is, in fact, necessary if we are to introduce any degree of real rationality into a health care system which, although it provides the best services available to any citizen in North America, is out of control in terms of its financing.

**Mr. Martel:** There must be another way of saving money.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** There was a bias introduced into the health care system, very dramatically, by the hospital insurance programme in 1959. It placed excessive emphasis upon treatment and care within the acute general hospitals. Of course, this was done in order to ensure there would be some insurance coverage for those individuals who required services.

**Mr. Renwick:** That's right, that is why it was done.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Over the next seven years, unfortunately, more and more services were covered by the hospital plan and the hospital became the focus of the delivery of health care services. I will tell you that it was quite inappropriately the centre and the focus of those services.

Since 1968, as a matter of fact, there has been a series of reports of task forces and special committees, not only within this province but in four other provinces of Canada



and some commissioned by the federal government, which have recommended very strongly modification of the direction of health spending from that very costly area, the acute general hospital, to the less costly ambulatory and community level services. As a result of these recommendations, early in this decade the government of this province developed and expanded programmes for home care, extended care within the community, coverage within nursing homes, within chronic care institutions, and established more than a score of innovative primary care programmes within various communities of this province.

One would have hoped that with the increased encouragement of primary and ambulatory care, there would have been decreased use of the acute general hospital as the focus and centre of treatment or of providing services, but that was not to be. It has been my experience that if Parkinson's law applies in any situation, the corollary to Parkinson's law pertains to this situation more than to any other. That law, of course, is that as long as there are acute general hospital beds, doctors will make sure that there are patients in them, and they will be filled constantly.

**Mr. Riddell:** So who is to blame for the system?

**Mr. Germa:** Doctors make the system.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Unfortunately, the medical profession in this province, and across this country, must assume a major part of the responsibility for this imbalance within the health care system.

**Mr. Reid:** This government should assume some responsibility. It set up the programme.

Interjections.

**Mr. Reid:** Over 33 years you set up the system.

**Mr. Renwick:** Come on; you deal with the doctors.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I would like to let my hon. colleagues become aware, as well, that over the past decade there have been innumerable studies of the quality of patient care within hospitals, and the results have been strikingly similar in almost all of the studies in a variety of jurisdictions, not only in North America but also in Europe.

**Mr. Renwick:** If you want to speak to the doctors go and speak to them at the convention.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The result is that there is, in fact, a critical size of acute general hospital below which it is impossible to provide the range and scope of high quality care which a patient who requires admission to an active treatment acute general hospital deserves, in terms of specialized care and support in this day, in this age, with the degree of our medical services development.

Incidentally, I think the report made by Dr. Chance in yesterday's newspaper, a report which was delivered to the Clinical Research Society of a study which he is carrying out, financed by the Ministry of Health of this province, emphasized the validity of this concern when he raised the problem of the fragility of premature infants in transportation shortly after they were born.

If in fact we could persuade small hospitals to close obstetrical units in which there are only 200 or 300 deliveries a year and in which there is no specialized service in terms of pediatrics or obstetrics, we would have much less difficulty with the transportation of those infants. If we did what can be done—that is to congregate obstetrical services in central hospitals within each county or each region or each town so that all the obstetrical services were provided in one institution and so that high quality specialized care by both physicians and nurses could be supplied—then we could be assured that those small fragile, premature infants would not have to be transported except under exceptional circumstances, and that could be done relatively easily with a premature ambulance.

It is relatively easy to do this. It is relatively easy for the conscientious physician to assess prenatal patients, to establish an APGAR type rating for those patients so that high-risk pregnancies and the high risk of prematurity can be predicted with some accuracy. This is not impossible—

**Mr. R. S. Smith:** You are still building that type of hospital.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —but it does require co-operation and co-ordination of medical services within community hospitals so that we will not have a myriad of small, inefficient and unfortunately not totally safe obstetrical units scattered in small hospitals throughout the country.

**Mr. R. S. Smith:** You are still building them.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** That is an example of what I am talking about in terms of the

maintenance of high quality care, the care to which any patient in the Province of Ontario is entitled if he or she requires acute general hospital treatment. They do require an institution which is of sufficient size to enable that institution to provide the scope of services and facilities necessary to—

Interjection.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —ensure all of the care which can be provided within those hospitals in this day and age

**Mr. Renwick:** Is that a justification for the closing of the community hospitals?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** As a matter of fact, it is a justification for closing some small hospitals because the level of care—

**Mr. Renwick:** Are you suggesting there has been inadequate care in the community hospitals you closed?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I am suggesting—if the hon. member across the floor would let me continue I shall explain to him—

**Mr. Renwick:** You would never have dealt with this question if it had not been in the Globe and Mail over the last two days.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The hon. member for Riverdale fails to remember that in November, 1975, I spoke briefly on this subject in this House. Of course, he doesn't remember; he probably wasn't here; or if he was he wasn't listening. At any rate, in my medical judgement—

**Mr. Renwick:** When you have been here long enough you will know that kind of argument doesn't get you anywhere.

Interjections.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —this has been one of the major factors in the programme of decision regarding the closing of small hospitals.

**Mr. R. S. Smith:** But you are still building the hospitals.

**Mr. Renwick:** Justify the closing of community hospitals.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** We are attempting to improve health care services for the people in this province.

Interjection.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Will the member for Riverdale try to contain himself?

**Mr. McKessock:** The people in Durham would rather have their babies born in a small hospital than in a snowbank on the side of the road trying to get to a larger one.

**Mr. Renwick:** I know I am right when I get applause from all sides of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no doubt that continence in a male is a virtue.

Interjections.

**Mr. Reid:** It sounds like a female chauvinist remark to me.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I can be just as chauvinist as the member.

**Mr. Reid:** No, you can't.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Yes, I can. You haven't tried me yet.

**Mr. Reid:** You just were.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, there is a very real need to restrain rapidly escalating costs of health care. They are escalating most rapidly within that field in which it is important to ensure that the services which are provided are adequate to the patient needs.

It is therefore important to ensure that we direct the money which is available to that area of service which will meet the needs—the medical needs, the health care needs—of 80 per cent of all the demands which our society can place upon a health care system. Eighty per cent of all health care needs can be provided on an ambulatory care, primary care basis. That is the way we must move.

This is certainly one of the basic reasons for the programme of restraint in hospitals. We are rationalizing our health care expenditures in a way which will, in the near and distant future, provide better health care for the people of this province.

**Mr. Warner:** Going to control private labs?

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Not what the people say. [9:00]

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** We must continue to move in that direction, with the help of responsible people in the communities in which small hospitals are being closed, with the help of responsible boards of governors of those hospitals, with the help of district health councils concerned about the services which those people require.



**Mr. Renwick:** When you have been here long enough you will know that kind of argument doesn't get you anywhere.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** We shall, in fact achieve that purpose and we will go on building a health care system in this province which is the envy of all other jurisdictions and will continue to be so.

**Mr. R. S. Smith:** But you are still building the hospitals.

**Mr. Renwick:** Justify the closing of community hospitals.

**Mr. Swart:** I rise to speak in support of the amendment to the amendment to the Speech from the Throne and the amendment to the Speech from the Throne. I'm sure that everyone on this side of the House, as both leaders have committed themselves, will be voting in favour of both the amendment to the amendment and the amendment.

**Mr. Angus:** Put the signs out.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** We'll take you on any day, particularly you.

**An hon. member:** Okay, call the election.

**Mr. Swart:** We are ready for it if either of the other two parties wishes to call the election. I want to say, as I said last fall, that I'm proud to represent the riding of Welland. I'm proud that it's going to be re-named, I expect, and I'm hoping I'm not being presumptuous, the riding of Welland-Thorold since that is now appropriate because that riding is made up solely of those two cities and completely of those two cities.

I could spend a great deal of time extolling the virtues of that area, I suppose, but I had intended, really, to say very little about the virtues of that area until the Minister of Labour and the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) made comments about the working riding which she represented. After the minister made that comment, I thought perhaps I should give some proof that I also represent a working riding. Perhaps the fact that I did work in industry for some 37 years and the fact that I was a member of the Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Union for over some 30 years may indicate that I too have some connection with labour.

Perhaps, more important, the real connection that you have in labour is I suppose whether you associate with the working people, whether you have worked with them for years and whether you therefore know the trials and problems they experience in the

workplace and don't get it just second hand from other people.

**Mr. Norton:** Such arrogance! How dare you, sir?

**An hon. member:** You ought to know what arrogance is all about.

**Mr. Martel:** Allan Lawrence used to hold a card too as a summer student in some labour movement. He used to brag about that.

**Mr. Swart:** The Minister of Labour made some reference to the fact that collective bargaining has perhaps suffered from some outdated methods and suffered from a few other things. I have to say here this evening that what collective bargaining is suffering most from now is the Anti-Inflation Board which the government of this province has sold out to lock, stock and barrel.

**Mr. Warner:** Wage without price controls.

**Mr. Norton:** You don't recognize wage controls.

Interjections.

**Mr. Swart:** I would just point out that—

Interjections.

**Mr. Reid:** Who voted for them last fall? Who supported this government last fall? You are all big talk but you voted for it last fall. Remember that.

**Mr. Martel:** We'll see how you vote on your amendment.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon member for Welland has the floor. Do him the courtesy of listening to him.

**Mr. Swart:** I would just point out, Mr. Speaker—

Interjections.

**Mr. Ferrier:** Why don't you call the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton) to order?

**Mr. Swart:** —that the application of the Anti-Inflation Board policies in this province are totally the responsibility of the federal Liberal government and the provincial Conservative government. They both must share the responsibility.

**Mr. Hodgson:** You have never had that responsibility. You have never had any responsibility so don't worry about it.

**Mr. Swart:** I want to say that I'm not going to speak at any great length in extolling the virtues of my riding because I believe my constituents want me to deal with the problems that are facing them. I think that's perhaps why they elected me instead of returning another member on the other side of the House.

**Mr. Ferrier:** Another trained seal.

**Mr. Swart:** Before I get into some of these problems, I would just like to make two suggestions for the consideration of this House, and I make these suggestions rather humbly as a new member.

The first of those suggestions is that I personally would like to see the term MPP changed to MLA again. There is confusion across this province with that terminology. Throughout most of the provinces the members of the provincial Houses are known as MLAs and I would think there would be some value in returning to that designation for us.

The second recommendation that I'd like the House to consider—and this, I guess, is not done in other jurisdictions—is that this House, instead of sitting for a session of several months, I would think should sit perhaps for the first two or three weeks of each month for 10 months of the year. I think there's merit in this because it would give those who don't live close to Toronto an opportunity to get back to their ridings for a week or two of each month. It would give them a chance to find out the feeling of the public. I think it would do particular good to the government members at this time if they went back and talked about hospitals and about government cutbacks. I think it would give the members' staff and the ministers' staff and the staff of the government the opportunity to do a bit more fruitful work than the panic work which perhaps has to be done when a session sits for three, four, five months and then doesn't sit for another two or three months. Therefore, I would like the House to consider that sort of programme with regard to the sessions.

The problems that I'm going to deal with this evening—that my constituents, and I'm sure, most of the people across this province feel—are very much the same that we dealt with last fall. They are the same because the Throne Speech did nothing to solve them. In fact, most of the problems that existed last fall in my riding, and elsewhere I think, now are compounded by the action the government has taken in some fields and the inaction that it has shown in others.

Last fall I brought before this House the problem—injustice perhaps would be a better word—of the freezing of hydro commissions where regional municipalities were created, particularly in the Niagara region. When the Niagara region was planned in 1970, the government of this province took action to freeze the hydro commission. Some 26 municipalities were made into 12 municipalities. In most of these municipalities we then had hydro being supplied to part of the municipality by the utility commission or the hydro commission of that municipality, and the remainder of the municipality being supplied by the Ontario rural hydro. The reasoning given for this was that they wanted time to investigate new structures of hydro before they determined that the new districts should all be put in with the old hydro commissions.

So there was a task force of the government appointed which sat for two or three years and in 1972 brought in a report that the municipal utilities should be rationalized into upper-tier regional utilities where and as new municipal government is implemented.

That created quite a stir; the result was that the Ontario government then appointed another committee to examine that task force report. That committee reported in 1974. It recommended, believe it or not, that another committee of local people be appointed.

**Mr. Martel:** Some of them were defeated Tories, were they not?

**Mr. Swart:** Yes, quite possibly. There are a lot of them around.

**Mr. Martel:** They don't want to go on the unemployment roll so they get a job in government.

**Mr. Swart:** It is now six years—

**Mr. Martel:** They should do that for the hospital workers.

Interjections.

**Mr. Swart:** It is now six years since the hydro commissions were frozen; it is over six years, we are going on to the seventh year. This committee said it hoped that it would report by October of this year, and just in March there is a new report by that committee which they say would result in the technical subcommittee reporting to that committee in October of this year.

After that they will hold public hearings. It will be seven or eight years from the time the commissions were frozen—at least that much. In fact, we are no further ahead now



than we were six years ago, not a bit further toward resolving this problem. It certainly will be seven or eight years.

The people in those municipalities can't even elect their hydro commissioners. In the city of Thorold, for instance, there is not a single commissioner left who has been elected by the people; they have all been appointed.

The areas are developing and growing. They are connecting, even right adjacent to the urban municipalities, to the rural hydro. The city of Welland, to put it mildly, is frustrated by this. The mayor, who happened to be my Conservative opponent in the last election, has taken real issue with that government over this stand.

I am asking here this evening that the Ontario government—I believe the freezing was done by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough)—lift that freeze and let the municipalities proceed on their own to supply hydro to their own urban area. It just makes no sense to carry on with the so-called freeze of boundaries and of commissions.

I want to turn for a few minutes, to the question of the preservation of agricultural land. Here again, the situation is no better. If anything, perhaps it is worse than it was when I spoke last fall in the Throne Speech debate.

There is no mention in the Throne Speech of the preservation of good agricultural land, except some vague reference to greater productivity on good land. There is no reference, in spite of the public sentiment in the last election. That was expressed at least partly, in the defeats of an number of government members. There is no reference in the Speech from the Throne, even though last December the agrologist of this province brought down a report, titled "Preservation or Starvation", which said that by the year 2000 we will be short two million acres of land in this province to feed the people of this province; that said the government of this province should enact legislation within one year to preserve class 1, 2 and 3 agricultural land.

There is not even any mention in the Throne Speech of what must be recognized as the continuing destruction of the very best agricultural land in this province.

I drive frequently, of course, from Thorold and St. Catharines to the Legislature; and all along the way, year by year, month by month, and day by day, I see further destruction of the best agricultural land in Ontario. The John Deere company—and there must be a bit of irony here—a company that manufactures farm implements,

has just built a new plant near Grimsby on 72 acres of the best agricultural land in the Niagara Peninsula. They are destroying the very land they are attempting to service with their farm implements.

**Mr. Wildman:** They should be building factories up north.

**Mr. Swart:** That is correct. I just point out to this House that from 1971 to 1975 there was an increase in population in the Niagara region of 19,653. Of that increase in population, more than 17,000 took place on the one-fifth to one-quarter of the land below the Niagara Escarpment or within two miles above it, where the climate is moderated from Lake Ontario and still able to grow either fruit or grapes. Something like 80 per cent of all population growth has taken place in that one quarter and yet nothing is being done about it.

I sat on the Niagara regional council when we were discussing the regional plan for Niagara. We almost begged the government to give us guidelines on what form the plan should take. We never got those guidelines.

The regional council, over the objections of many of us, passed a land-use plan that provided far more land than could ever be used even on the best agricultural land during the 20 years of the plan. It was submitted to the government in September, 1974, but nothing was heard from the government until Sept. 8, 1975. It seems to me, if I remember correctly, that was about 10 days before the election was to take place.

There was a letter from the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Irvine), under whose jurisdiction that came at that time, which said something to the effect that he was requesting council to reduce substantially the encroachment of future urban development on this irreplaceable resource and therefore recommended that the plan not be approved.

A bit later, the new Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) on Oct. 22, 1975, sent another letter to Niagara region. In it he said:

It has been indicated by both the Minister of Housing and the Premier of Ontario that this government does not wish to see urban development infringe on the unique agricultural resources in the Niagara region. This must apply to the unique and tender fruit and grape land north of the escarpment and also to the other prime agricultural land resources within the region. . . . Growth in the remainder of the region must also be directed to lower-quality land so



the best agricultural lands in the region are retained for agricultural purposes.

That is a very worthy-sounding objective, but what has happened in this period of time and what will happen now to that fruit land? The Niagara regional council will receive tomorrow, I believe, a report from its planner which will state that the boundaries for the urban municipalities in the areas of the good agricultural land should be reduced by something like 2,500 acres from the present 7,000 acres which have been designated for urban development.

Already the municipalities are fighting these proposals. Tomorrow, St. Catharines will appear before the regional council to tell the regional council it doesn't want its boundaries drawn in to that degree. The irony of it all is that the proposals now before the regional council are almost identical with the proposals put forward by the planner back in 1972 and 1973; almost identical to what they were at that time. The council enlarged it and we're going through the same process.

There is no doubt that the only way we can get a meaningful land use plan in this province is if the province itself is prepared to set the guidelines for developing a master plan for this province and is willing to give direction to the municipalities. It's too much to expect of local municipalities that they can bring about this preservation of prime agricultural land without getting guidance, without having a firm blueprint set for them by the Province of Ontario. I say that municipalities generally want this sort of thing and, believe me, the public certainly is anxious that this be done.

Another matter on which very little action has been taken is the matter of price control. I thought the new release by the Anti-Inflation Board on March 20 of this year perhaps depicted more clearly than any words from the labour leaders or anyone else the exact method in which that Anti-Inflation Board is functioning.

**Mr. Mancini:** What about Manitoba and Saskatchewan?

**Mr. Swart:** There have been charges made over and over again, and rightly so, that it is a wage control board. Last Saturday the Anti-Inflation Board—I'm quoting now:

Stung by criticism of its failure to control prices, the Anti-Inflation Board plans to make public a list of companies that have agreed to reduce planned price increases after talks with the board. Late this week the board was still contacting

the companies to get their permission for the public statement expected about Thursday. It will be a short list, less than 10 companies.

Let me point out the significance, really, of what this is saying.

**Mr. Mancini:** What did Ed Schreyer do?

**Mr. Swart:** It says, "Plans to make public a list of companies that have agreed to reduce planned price increases after talks with the board." They're going to the companies to get permission to do this and there is a maximum of 10 companies. To the best of my knowledge those have not yet been released.

**Mr. Martel:** Five. Great stuff.

**Mr. Swart:** They have released five companies, have they? They released that for five companies. Surely, if anything proves the board's attitude towards prices it is its own release.

**Mr. Mancini:** What about your wages, Mel?

**Mr. Swart:** When the Irving Co. overpaid its workers the board didn't go and ask permission to release it; it fined the company \$125,000. It isn't just five or 10 groups of workers or contracts which have been signed they rolled back, there are literally hundreds of them. I say that what the Anti-Inflation Board provides is compulsory wage control and voluntary price control. That is really what the Anti-Inflation Board is doing at the present time.

**Mr. Kerrio:** What are you doing here with it?

**Mr. Reid:** What a bunch of gobbledygook.

**Mr. Mancini:** You guys had a chance to vote against wage and price controls and you let it go right by.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** We don't need these side debates. The hon. member for Welland has the floor.

**Mr. Swart:** The government of Ontario has taken exactly the same sort of attitude as the federal government with regard to any control on prices. Nothing, in fact, is being done.

**Mr. Kerrio:** They are partners.

**Mr. Swart:** You know the price of natural gas, for instance—



**Mr. Kerrio:** You made them partners.

**Mr. Swart:** —in December went up in my area—and in the Toronto area—by 35 per cent to 45 per cent. That followed other increases over the last 18 months, which made a total increase in natural gas prices between 80 per cent and 90 per cent. Those were approved by the National Energy Board and by the Ontario Energy Board.

When I complained about these kinds of price increases in a press release a week or so ago, I got a very sharp letter from the Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell), who objected because he said the Ontario government had not really permitted this sort of thing. They really had no control over it, and anyhow, they had made great input to the federal government in objection to it.

I want to read one paragraph of the letter that I received from the minister. I quote:

The Progressive Conservative government of Ontario welcomes your concern. We have been making it a major issue for over two years now, and we will continue to fight battles on this issue and hopefully win most of them as we have in the past.

I just say in reply to that letter, if an 80 per cent or 90 per cent increase in gas prices is a win, I would hate to see what a loss is by the government of this province.

The same lack of concern for price increases has been shown in the field of auto insurance. We know that on Feb. 1 of this year the speed limit was reduced and the wearing of seatbelts became compulsory. Any examination of the facts from other jurisdictions where these two things are in effect will show that there is a drastic reduction in deaths, in injuries and in damage to automobiles. Yet the government refuses to take any action to assure that the savings from these lower speed limits and from seatbelt use are passed on to the motorist of this province.

The savings are substantial. It is estimated that it will cut the cost of accidents by at least 20 per cent. That's a very—forgive me for using the word—conservative estimate, that they will be cut by 20 per cent. This will mean something like \$120 million to \$150 million in savings to the insurance companies in this province. And you know what the insurance companies say about this? The president of the Insurance Bureau of Canada said, and this is dated Nov. 19, 1975, after the legislation was enacted, that the Highway Traffic Act amendment will probably have a beneficial effect in reducing accidents with an

obvious reduction in the insurance level. But, he added, it will be more than two years before insurance companies will be clear enough about any reduction in the number of accidents to adjust their rates. More than two years!

Just more recently, on March 15, I see where the Premier of this province (Mr. Davis) said that motorists deserve insurance savings. Speaking in Waterloo, I believe, he mentioned the 27 per cent drop in fatal highway collisions last month. He said that there should be a reduction passed on to the motorist, but the companies have already increased insurance rates for this year. And the Premier said later in an interview he doubts they will be reduced no matter what the savings. Then he goes on to say that the companies will need another three or four months to get a more accurate picture of cost savings. It is still very early but the signs are encouraging.

The Premier says three or four months. The president of the Insurance Bureau said it will be more than two years. I ask this House, who will win out? Is the government prepared to bring in legislation so that rates will be controlled and the savings passed on to the motoring public? I doubt it very much. [9:30]

Finally, I want to deal a bit with the cutbacks, the cutbacks in the hospitals, the cutbacks on assistance to municipalities. The first thing that I want to say with regard to this is that it is all being done in the name of inflation. This is what we're told—it doesn't matter whether it is a federal government or whether it is provincial government, it's all being done in the name of inflation.

I want to say that we don't, in fact, have inflation. The definition of inflation, according to any dictionary we look at, we will find that, one way or another, it says there is too much money chasing too few goods. We know this was the situation during the war years. That of course is not the situation today.

There is not too much money chasing too few goods. People are unemployed because others can't buy the goods which we can produce in our society, and what we really have is a period of price escalation. That is what it is, and not true inflation; it's price escalation that we have in our society, and I say to this House that the best way to control price escalation is to control prices. That's where the emphasis should be, not on controlling wages, as is the total emphasis being put by the two levels of government.



In fact, we are saving little or no money of the people of this province by the cut-back programme. Just look at some of the figures—the \$50 million. The 5,000 people who will be laid off in the hospital field at a saving of \$10,000 per person. If they go on unemployment insurance they will be paid \$5,000 a year on unemployment insurance. There will be some \$2,000 a year which will be lost on taxes of one form or another. That's \$7,000 a year. That's \$35 million that, in fact, won't be saved at all. If we consider the graduates from the nursing schools, if we consider the graduates from the teachers' colleges who will not be able to get jobs, the social workers who graduate, if we consider the investment that we have put into these people over the years and then have no jobs for them to go to, there is, in fact no saving whatsoever to society as a whole by these cutbacks.

Of course, we know in the field of the cutback in the labs, it's a myth. The OPSEU did some studies on the costs of the tests being done, what OHIP is paying to the private labs, and regardless of whether it's clinical or whether it's the other, the facts are that it costs about 50 per cent more to have these tests done in private labs than in the public labs, and in the long run it's going to cost more. There is no saving in this sort of thing.

So there is going to be very little saving from the cutbacks in that field and in the municipal field. Again, people are going to be laid off or there is going to be a pass-through to the property taxpayer. It still has to come out of the same people and that pass-through is going to be pretty substantial.

The real problem with this cutback programme—the whole SPR programme—is that it's being done in isolation. It's being done in isolation from the overall problems that face our society and the major problem is unemployment. That's where the emphasis should be, because if we can solve the problem of unemployment we won't have to worry about the price escalation.

The second point that I want to make on the cutbacks, and it has been made before, is the way in which it was done. It's an about-face and the methods of implementation make no sense at all. The acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson), when she was speaking this evening, made some comments about the rationale for the cutbacks. I suggest that the rationale in the method of cutback, and even for the cutback, is totally missing.

Surely one or the other must be true. Either the government has colossally overspent in building hospitals and in staffing them in recent years, or now it's a mistake to cut back. It has to be one or the other, because our population is increasing, the needed usage of hospitals and all the other facilities must be increasing, and yet they have now made an about-face and are cutting back.

**Mr. Wildman:** An oversight.

**Mr. Swart:** If, over the last two or three years, they had not allowed the private nursing homes to be built to the extent that they did; if there are too many active treatment beds, if they had diverted floors to nursing care treatment, we could have saved the 3,000 beds and the cost of operating those that are now in the private nursing homes. But, of course, the government of this province is opposed to the public operation and favours the private nursing homes.

Another point that I want to make on this issue is that what is going to happen as a result of what is being done is that the new health councils are going to be destroyed before they ever get started. In some areas, health councils are now being asked to report back to the Ministry of Health on where the cutbacks should be made in their area. If they report that no cutbacks should be made, the Ministry of Health is going to ignore that; they're going to make the cutbacks anyhow. If they report that cutbacks should be made, it is going to destroy their credibility in the community. Where they are not being asked to report on this, and these major decisions are being made in the health field without their being consulted, then their credibility is also going to be destroyed. The whole purpose of the health councils when they were instituted—in the news releases and all the rest of it—was to rationalize health care in the various areas of the province. They are, in fact, going to be destroyed by the policies of this government.

I want to say a few words about the cutback in assistance to municipalities. The first point I want to make is that the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) has stated that the province this year is going to get by on a 10 per cent increase in its expenditures. Included in that 10 per cent increase about which they are bragging is the cutback to the municipalities. If we exclude these transfer payments from the government's total expenditures, we find in fact that they are going to be spending closer to 11 per cent more than



they are the 10 per cent to which they say they are going to limit their own expenditures.

The simple facts are that the municipalities are being penalized because last year the government cut back in an election year in the hopes of winning support from the public. Because they based their transfer payments to municipalities on the revenue to the provincial government and when they cut back the sales tax and they cut off the tax on machinery to industry, it meant that municipalities then had to get along on a lesser amount this year than they otherwise would have.

I would just point out that revenue to the province increased from 1972 to 1973 by 13 per cent, and from 1973 to 1974 by 18.9 or 19.5 per cent, depending which government document you're looking at; but in 1975 it dropped down to 8.5 from 10.8 per cent and this year it is going back up to 14.7 per cent. The municipalities are being caught in a political decision by the government of this province.

The municipalities, by law, must provide many programmes that the provincial government has initiated and delegated them to carry out, and yet the money is not being given to them by the province to do this job. In addition, they are providing services and they have commitments that they simply can't cut back; for instance, in the primary treatment of sewage, the treatment of phosphates, which increases the cost by perhaps 25 per cent, was initiated by the provincial government.

Let me relate briefly what is happening in the Niagara region with regard to social services. The regional levy there is going to be up some 14.4 per cent, and the director there has stated that it is doubtful if that budget will provide sufficient funds to last to the end of the year. So far this year in the Niagara region, the expenditure for social services is up 25 per cent over the corresponding period last year. There has been a nine per cent increase in the welfare case load in the Niagara region. So it is doubtful, even with this increase, if the money will last until the end of the year.

What have their cutbacks meant? The dental programme for social service recipients in the Niagara region is proposed to be cut back this year from \$330,000 to \$50,000, a reduction to less than 20 per cent of what they spent last year. The daycare cost to people who can pay the full costs has gone up from \$5 per day to \$11.50 per day. And,

perhaps worst of all, there will be no increase this year to the welfare recipients.

The situation with regard to the homes for the aged is perhaps even worse. The Niagara region operates about 1,000 beds for the aged. So far their cutbacks have meant they have had to lay off about 32 people. The expenditure is still up 13 per cent after their cutbacks, but the levy at present is slated to go up 41.6 per cent. If the province comes through with higher payments to the extended care section of the homes, the increase may be only 29 per cent.

The homes can continue to operate. But they won't be quite as clean, and there won't be quite as much nursing service. In addition, they have to make sure that they don't admit chronic cases or what are likely to be chronic cases. In fact, they have to exclude from the home those who very well may need the service the most.

Another aspect of this just simply makes no sense at all. The director of the homes for the aged in the region of Niagara has been told by the Ministry of Community and Social Services that a freeze must be put on foster homes. This was a programme, first developed in the regional municipality of Niagara, where people who were ambulatory and were able to be taken care of in private homes, were put into the foster homes and payment was made for them in the foster homes.

The gross cost of keeping people in foster homes now runs at \$3,430 each, compared with \$4,300 each if they are kept in the homes for the aged. But the significance of this is that the net cost for putting them in foster homes runs at \$560, whereas if they are kept in the homes for the aged it runs \$1,430, or 150 per cent more, and yet the ministry has told them that they must have a freeze on foster homes and cannot move additional people out of the homes for the aged into the foster homes.

[9:45]

I suggest that the comments which have been made by my colleagues in this group have been sufficient to prove that the policies of this government have reached the point where the public should have a say on whether they want that government to continue.

**Mr. Kerrio:** We think you should resign.

**Mr. Swart:** So I and my colleagues are prepared to vote so that the government comes down and the public of Ontario can pass

judgement and if they so wish they can bring another government into this province.

**Mr. Eakins:** Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to rise and participate in this debate. I intend to speak only briefly. However, with the undivided attention which each speaker receives it is tempting to go on for an hour or two. I must say that if any changes were being made in the House, the one which I would make would be some limitation on the length of speeches.

I'd like to recognize first our friends from Halton-Burlington who are under the Speaker's gallery here, constituents of the member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. Reed). It was a pleasure meeting with them earlier this evening and we certainly welcome them to the House here tonight.

**Mr. Gaunt:** Great riding, great member.

**Mr. Eakins:** That's right.

**An hon. member:** Tremendous.

**Mr. Eakins:** One of the pleasures in coming into the House has been to renew acquaintance with many of the people whom I knew when I served in the municipal service as a councillor and as a mayor and many from all sides of the House who are here tonight. I know that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) and the Chairman of Cabinet (Mr. Brunelle) have both been very kind to our municipal associations, and in particular the towns and villages, and I note in tonight's paper the member for Cochrane North is not going to seek re-election. I don't believe he's in the House, but I just want to wish him well.

There is one person I believe who deserves to be in this House as much as anyone and it's the member for Welland (Mr. Swart). He's a good municipal friend of mine whom I've known over the years and who made a good contribution to municipal affairs. He served on the mayors and reeves executive and certainly the member for Welland is one of the people who has spent many elections endeavouring to get here and I'm delighted to see that he is here tonight.

**Mr. Kerrio:** Actually, they need him worse back in the region.

**Mr. Ruston:** Overnight guest.

**Mr. Eakins:** As I said I feel very honoured to rise and participate in the Throne debate and to speak on behalf of my constituents in that great riding of Victoria and

Haliburton. I want to say first of all that I'm most grateful to the people of my riding for allowing me the opportunity to be of service to them here at Queen's Park. I feel very humble as their member, especially as I look back over the years on the history of these two great counties and of the quality of the members who have served. While the history extends back to when Victoria and Haliburton was divided and had two members, I'm sure most people recollect and recall the days in a more familiar way from the 1930s onward. Perhaps I'm more aware of it because there had not been a Liberal member elected since the election of 1934 until last Sept. 18.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** May be short-lived.

**Mr. Eakins:** For a number of years from 1934 this great area of the province was served by the late William Newman of the village of Lorneville in Eldon township. Mr. Newman served with distinction and a record to be proud of and made a great contribution to this House.

**Mr. Gaunt:** He was the late William Newman. The present member is the great William Newman.

**Hon. W. Newman:** He was the wrong side of the family.

**Mr. Reid:** There was one smart one in the family.

**Mr. Riddell:** It seems to me you were a Liberal in college. Were you?

**Hon. W. Newman:** No.

**Mr. Eakins:** It is interesting to note that the last election the late William Newman won was in 1934. This was also the year of the only election defeat ever suffered by his opponent who was a gentleman by the name of Leslie Frost. Mr. Frost ran again, as members know, in 1937 and was successful and, of course, from that day to this, the events of those years are well recorded.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Great man.

**Mr. Reid:** We need him back now.

**Mr. Eakins:** The Hon. Leslie M. Frost, who became Premier in 1949, will, I'm sure, be remembered as one of the outstanding figures in Ontario's political history. He was a leader in every sense of the word. He was astute; he was understanding but most important, and what some politicians seem to forget today, he knew and understood the common man.



**Hon. W. Newman:** That's because he was a Tory.

**Mr. Reid:** He's the last Conservative who did.

**Mr. Eakins:** In private conversation, one was able to learn first hand of the high regard he held for many of his political opponents.

For the past 12 years this seat was held by Glen Hodgson, a gentleman for whom I have a very high personal regard. I am delighted to see that this week the riding is having a dinner in his honour.

Having come up through the ranks of municipal service and knowing the history and representation of my riding, I feel very humble and most honoured to have the opportunity to represent the people of Victoria-Haliburton at Queen's Park.

I want to mention first and to express very strongly my deep concern over the closing of the small community hospitals in Ontario, as many other speakers have mentioned in their speeches. If this government is serious in any way regarding the need for decentralization, to my mind it is going about it in a very awkward way. The order to close Bobcaygeon's Hillcroft Hospital is a very deep blow to this community and its surrounding area.

I question very seriously the advice and the wisdom of the Ministry of Health in the manner in which this was carried out. I find it unbelievable that these closings would be announced when the House was in recess and without any opportunity to debate the merits of these orders. I'm sure that anyone who has served in municipal office would know that if municipal councillors carried out their discussions and business this way, they would be removed at the next election.

**Mr. Kerrio:** That's going to happen here.

**Mr. Eakins:** It is quite apparent that neither the minister nor his staff even knew where Bobcaygeon was located. Even the minister was quoted as saying that he didn't realize the distance between Lindsay and Bobcaygeon, a distance of some 24 miles, was as great and that with adverse road conditions the drive was much longer than anticipated.

I believe that whoever gave the minister this poor advice also did not take into consideration the fact that Hillcroft Hospital serves a very large summer population of upwards of 100,000 people. With the beautiful Kawarthas on the doorstep of Metro Toronto,

many find it convenient to use the services of Bobcaygeon and Ross Memorial in Lindsay when they have sudden illnesses and accidents in the summer. This should not be overlooked because many of the Metro people find it convenient to have their accidents in this part of the province.

The cutback at Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay is one of the heaviest in the province. When this hospital was built a few years ago and opened about two years ago, it was built according to the specifications and the requirements of this government. Now the government says it is too large and has to be cut back. I believe and I say that the ministry must bear full responsibility for the poor planning of which it is the author. Please don't put all the blame for restraints on the citizens for asking too much.

**Mr. Ruston:** Mismanagement.

**Mr. Eakins:** When you close hospitals and close beds and lay off people in small communities, you are in effect tearing the heart out of the community and telling the towns and villages of Ontario they haven't much of a future.

I would like to ask the Health ministry and the Premier (Mr. Davis) some questions and I would appreciate their response. Does the Ministry of Health have an overall plan with regard to health care and the place of each hospital within that plan? If so, this should be communicated to the hospitals and to the public.

Is there an actual plan with regard to the present restraint programme as it affects all hospitals? It has been suggested, though this has not been substantiated, that one yardstick you are using is that the ministry is to cut \$1,000 per bed. If this is so, why is it so unevenly applied? If this is the case, then the Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay has about the equivalent of \$3,000 per bed removed from its 1976-1977 budget.

Why is the whole programme handled in such a manner? Is it actually for shock value; and why has the Ministry of Health been placed so drastically in the forefront of the government's total restraint programme?

The letter from the ministry to the hospital notifying them of the sudden switch in policy with regard to this hospital suggested there is no appeal mechanism. This does not seem right to me, that they cannot appeal the orders from the ministry.

The present method of handling the whole situation actually suggests a state of panic in the Ministry of Health. Of course, this



might be passed further up the line to the responsibility of the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough).

I recognize that restraints are not only inevitable but advisable. I also recognize the method in which they have been brought about and how unevenly they have been applied across the province.

I am also very concerned about the lack of government initiative to develop our smaller communities. I think we must all give serious thought to the need to develop a system of balanced growth in Ontario.

Urban development is progressing in some areas at a pace which is clearly out of control from the point of view of housing and transportation facilities. The entire social/economic situation is a matter of real anxiety for some people living in the Metro area. There is a great need for a slowdown in the development and expansion of many of our larger cities.

In England, for example, the capital city of London, faced with a similar situation, took action to bring some control to development by creating a greenbelt around the city and giving enormous incentives to the location of industry in areas away from the metropolis.

Many small communities in Ontario experience great difficulties because of the small tax base. They are losing their young people and skilled workers to the cities because that is where the jobs are to be found. At the same time, industry is attracted to the city because of the availability of manpower.

We have, in effect, a vicious circle. We must take action before we have a serious crisis on our hands. Sooner or later we must take the bull by the horns and inaugurate an all-over provincial plan of development to assist our small communities. I know that in many of our communities, an increased population of 2,000 would be a tremendous assistance. But in others, up through my riding, even 500 people would make a noticeable difference. At the same time, we would be removing some of the intense pressure being experienced in our urban centres.

Any effective means of bringing out a degree of balanced growth in Ontario must be based on a considerable amount of government participation. In many respects I think governments have been far too much involved in our day-to-day lives. When I say that considerable government participation would be necessary to achieve balanced growth, I certainly don't mean I feel less concerned about the extent to which government bureaucracy

tends to infringe on the rights of the individual.

However, there are some results which can only be achieved by the direction and participation of the government acting on a province-wide basis, and balanced growth falls into that category.

When one is considering a problem as complex and wide-ranging, I see centralization of growth in the urban areas and development of our last densely populated regions. This has to be dealt with under the auspices of the provincial government.

[10:00]

One suggestion that has considerable merit in this connection is the concept of some form of land servicing programme. But one of the many obstacles in the way of opening up or improving specific areas for residential or industrial development is the expense of making available sufficiently serviced land. If a provincial servicing programme were to be established, the government could, in consultation with municipalities, designate specific areas where it is agreed that residential, commercial and/or industrial development is desirable and necessary.

The availability of comparably inexpensive serviced land in underdeveloped areas would encourage the location of secondary industries, with the attendant residential development in the vicinity of the new employment source. Capital grants, low interest and long-term loans would be additional incentives for secondary industries and small business enterprises to locate in areas away from the big cities and the highly industrialized regions.

At one time, the private and public sectors of the economy were clearly defined and separate. However, over the years they have become almost inextricably bound. Taxes on payroll, on income, capital gains on sales, on succession, by reducing profit and the ability to finance growth, tend to encourage the small businessman to sell out. On the other hand, the larger firms, the multi-national corporations, the conglomerates, are in a position to obtain special tax advantages.

Capital incentives, the ability to deduct interest costs of borrowing for acquisition, the right to offset the losses of one firm against the profits of another, these are only a few examples of the way the larger companies can benefit. We must find a means to reverse the trend to larger and larger and to encourage the proliferation of smaller companies suitable for location in smaller communities.



Government intervention in the private sector has helped to bring about the drift toward larger companies at the expense of the individual, the small businessman; and no doubt only government intervention can bring about a change of direction in this area by providing the incentives necessary to encourage small operations to come into existence and remain afloat.

It is a pleasure to rise and to speak on behalf of the people of Victoria-Haliburton and to represent them here at Queen's Park. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** I have the pleasure of rising to support the excellent address of Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor. As the member for the constituency of Ottawa South and the Minister of Industry and Tourism, I feel it is most important to address the Legislature at what I consider to be a very crucial and critical time in the history not only of Ontario but indeed of Canada.

Before I get into my full remarks, I want to recognize an accomplishment by an Ottawa firm that in recent days presented its best foot forward in the Oscar awards, and that is the firm of Crawley Films from Ottawa, and to recognize that the feature length documentary they produced, "The Man Who Skied Down Everest," was awarded the Academy Award for a feature film.

I want to recognize the fact that the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, realizing that this particular movie was in the competition for an Academy Award, sponsored, along with the firm, a preview of the film prior to the competition in an effort to make sure that Ontario and Canada's film producer and the feature film had been viewed by those people that would have some say in the award-winning decision.

I want to congratulate Crawley Films of Ottawa and Mr. and Mrs. Crawley for their fine effort in representing the film industry and in the success of this particular movie. I might also say to the members of the House, that I hope the opportunity will come early in the month of May for Crawley Films to have a showing of the film at Ontario Place for the members of the Legislature and other invited guests so that we can all witness this fine production by a Canadian firm.

**Mr. Reid:** Cocktails are on the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** Maybe we can get the Liberal Party in Ottawa to supply that portion of the operation.

**Mr. Reid:** We just supply the judges.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** I'm going to make some very quick comments on areas that I'm reporting for as the Minister of Industry and Tourism. I want to recognize the fact, first of all, that it's very simple and easy to sit back and criticize some of the problems that we face in the business community today. We listen to the discussion and the comments continuously about the imbalance of payments that we in Canada have as it relates to other countries of the world. One recognizes the fact that those imbalances are here for a multitude of reasons. I know some will say that it's the auto industry that is responsible. Others will look at other areas of a responsibility and say that it has been caused because governments have not invested sufficient funds.

While we're in the process, both federally and provincially, of analysing the impact of these imbalances to try to find some solutions to them, I say honestly and fairly to the House that federally and provincially we discussed them yesterday with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce from Ottawa in the hope that we will eventually find some corrective measures that can be taken. In the auto industry the discussions have been going on for some time. The Americans have felt that they have been taking the short end of the stick and the Canadians also believe that they have the short end of the stick so far as production is concerned.

We have, as a province, been invited by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to participate in a review programme that they are presently going through on the autopact to see whether some changes should be made at this time; and if they are to be made, what they will do in complementing the industry in our country.

**Mr. Samis:** It wasn't me; it was the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio).

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** I heard that comment that the Americans might give it to us again. It was 11 years ago that we got into the autopact. We believed it was in the best interests of the industry of Canada, and indeed of North America. I would find it very difficult, in looking at the situation, to say that if we had not been in the autopact the conditions would have been a great deal worse



than they are today. We can continue to try to press our case, both provincially and federally, in an effort to find a greater opportunity for parts manufacturing in the Province of Ontario and the further assembling of cars in this country. I believe it's going to come through hard, tough negotiations; and as to whether we shall see those in the year of 1976, with the US presidential election pending, is a giant question mark.

**Mr. Wildman:** We have lots to lose.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** We might have a lot to lose in the autopact arrangement, but let me assure the member that not all of it lies with the government of Canada, there must also be a degree of co-operation and interest in opening up the pact by our American colleagues.

**Mr. Samis:** Tell Vance Hartke that.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** Let me say that Mr. Hartke's remarks have created some interest. But if you were to follow the press releases, you'll find that most of the press that is being produced is here in Canada. The impression he's making in the United States in the American press is very insignificant.

**Mr. Samis:** He hasn't changed his tune though.

**Mr. Kerrio:** He has lots of support over there from unions.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** I want to touch on two or three areas of the ministry. I recall at the time of my estimates the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) made some remarks on trade missions that our ministry has had in operation for some 13 or 14 years. I recall one of the remarks at the time by the member was that he considered them big drunks. I say to the member, an importer of electronics, that he should not try to make people believe that the missions have not produced positive results for our province.

The missions go out and abroad, in this country and the world, with the ministry paying the economy air fare for the participants, and in some cases, I might say, we're fortunate there are a number of participants who look after their entire financing of the trip. The ministry becomes the catalyst of the operation in making sure that at the other end there are appointments and arrangements for them.

They have produced some very positive, concrete results for our province and we shall continue to send trade missions throughout

the world. There have been many success stories as a result of missions, and I invite members of the House to look at some of the reports that have appeared in the various journals relating to the business community.

I want to clearly indicate that trade in this world has changed considerably and that programmes must be redesigned to accommodate the new direction. The Speech from the Throne indicated that, as a ministry and as a government, we are now going to start to put together a turnkey operation in the marketplaces of the world.

There are a number of countries that are building very sophisticated plants, people who are into educational and hospital systems and are looking for expertise and technology that we happen to have in the people and the industries in Ontario; and I would have to expand that to say other industries and companies across Canada.

**Mr. Wildman:** Lots of people in the hospitals are losing their jobs.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** In this next year, we shall put together these selected teams; and while we do not have all of the opportunities that exist in some countries where governments can indicate clearly which company will participate in a particular consortium, we hope that with the federal and the provincial ministers we will be able to convince companies that a Canadian firm, or a consortium of Canadians, will be better off in the marketplace than several competing for the same business.

One of the particular cases we are working on at this very moment, which I hope will produce positive results for a consortium here in Ontario and in Canada, happens to be in Caracas, Venezuela. We are participating, through the Urban Transportation Development Corp., in a bid for a quarter-billion-dollar subway system in that community. Both federally and provincially, we have worked with industries in Ontario and Quebec—indeed, there will be industries from other province of Canada—in trying to place a bid on behalf of the industry of Canada on that particular project. We shall continue to follow up that type of bidding in that country and in that marketplace at this time.

Someone said he believed we should look more closely at our foreign operations. The ministry has 5 offices in foreign countries of the world, and I want to indicate clearly that sometimes I have reservations as to the potential that they can develop for us, whether they are properly located in the year of 1976, whether some of them shouldn't



be relocated in other parts of the world, or whether some offices should be closed completely.

Interjection.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** I hear the provincial secretary for—

**Mr. Reid:** He wants an appointment to one of those foreign places, Paris?

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** Let's not get into that one tonight. What we are looking at is the opportunity of perhaps realigning some of the foreign office operations of the Province of Ontario. In recent weeks, I have had some very lengthy discussions with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in Ottawa in the light of the fact that the federal government believes there are too many provinces represented in the foreign field; that there is confusion and interference being run because there are eight or nine provinces represented overseas; and that foreign customers are never quite able to keep track of whether it's Canada, Ontario or Quebec, because they run them all into one as Canada.

I am willing to admit to Mr. Jamieson and others that there has been and definitely is confusion in the foreign market as a result of Ontario, Alberta, Quebec and other provinces participating. And I have asked the minister and his colleague, the Minister of External Affairs, to see if it is not possible that facilities could be made available to Ontario and other provinces to be located in the federal government offices in the various countries of the world where the province of its choice wishes to be located. I hope I will have the opportunity in the next short period of time of reporting conclusively to the House that we are able to enter into some special arrangements with the federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of External Affairs.

I realize there will be some problems in the eyes of others that we will lose our complete identity in certain parts of the world. I want to assure the House that I do not think we will lose our identity. But I think it's essential at this time that we try to find ways of cutting down the expenses of doing business on behalf of Ontario and Canada.

[10:15]

I think we are going to have to look more closely at some of the trade shows. In other countries of the world, trade shows have become an extremely important part in industrial expansion and development of com-

mercial goods. I do not believe that we, in Ontario, indeed we in Canada, have made the best possible use of all of the foreign trade shows that exist in the European countries.

We are looking at, particularly in France, rather than establishing an office on behalf of the government of Ontario, the opportunity of locating a desk at the Canadian Embassy and Trade Council in Paris. Indeed, we are looking at the possibilities of using their trade shows to a greater extent than we have in the past.

It's great to talk about consumer goods if they can find a place in the foreign market—that is providing that Canadian manufacturers, both in this province and in other provinces, are going to spend some time appointing the right agents and are prepared to put up a great deal of money in the promotion, advertisement and advancement of those products. In our recent assessment, we believe it can be accomplished to a great extent, with great success, through trade shows. So we shall be pursuing that particular area.

May I also speak at this time, with regard to domestic goods going into a commercial market in foreign countries. There are a number of problems that confront Canadian manufacturers and I suppose we could say manufacturers of other countries of the world as well. More and more countries are putting up non-tariff barriers to eliminate or exclude producers from other countries in a particular market.

So we're going to have to become much more alert and aware of other opportunities we believe are present and available for us in various countries of the world. We're looking now at the possibility of our officers in foreign fields becoming more direct in the line of trying to relocate industries from those countries in the Province of Ontario.

I hope that in the next short period of time, with some of the films that we have produced—and we have produced them in five different languages of the world—we'll be able to go out and around to the various marketplaces and to bankers and industrialists, whether it be in Germany, France, England or any of the other countries, to indicate clearly by feature films what Ontario has to offer in the various communities across our province.

I was indicating earlier this evening, to several members of the House, that in recent days we have had a decision from the foreign investment review agency in Ottawa. I'm sure



most in the House realize that the Ministry of Industry and Tourism is responsible for reviewing all applications made to the bureau programme in Ottawa. Forty per cent of the cases examined since inception have been referred to this province for a decision or a position. I can only clearly indicate that within my ministry there are six people employed to do a constant review of applications as to whether the takeover by a foreign company really has a long-range benefit to the economy of Ontario; and in the long run the economy of Canada.

In Ontario's case, 74 of the takeovers have been allowed. We believe they will likely produce results for us. Nine have been disallowed, which is 11 per cent of the applications, and 40 cases are pending. There have been a number of cases withdrawn as a result of first hand indications that there would be some opposition at one or two of the political levels.

We have asked Mr. Jamieson, through his ministry in Ottawa, to find out if there is not a faster way of processing some of the fairer applications. Members of this House have complained to me that in the case of certain firms being taken over in their communities, the period of time taken by federal agencies, and I suppose by the provincial agency, has been too long.

We have now come to a decision, as of yesterday, that we hope we can cut the time of the process which averages out at about 77 days for each and every application. We hope on certain selected applications, where the employment is 100 or less, the value is \$200,000 or less, to be able to process to completion within a 10-day period.

It might be an opportune time to indicate to those members who have an interest in the White Corp. takeover of Westinghouse Canada Ltd., that it was announced in the federal House today by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce that the White takeover of Westinghouse has been disallowed for the second time. That leaves the case completely open to Westinghouse to make its decision as to which step it wishes to take next in the disposal of its Canadian assets. I only quickly add that in my personal opinion I think the right decision was made. We will wait to see, with the union having an interest in it, and the Canadian interests having an interest in this Westinghouse asset, what will transpire over the next short period of time.

About a year ago we implemented in the ministry an energy management programme to assist industry across the province. We

equipped a bus and put some experts on board, along with a great deal of equipment. We also hired two students from Mohawk Community College. Their job has been to go throughout this province to conduct on-site inspections and make recommendations as to the facilities that they're inspecting when they relate directly to either the consumption of electrical power or to heating of a particular office or factory.

Results have been pleasing, most rewarding, from industry after industry and community after community that they have visited. In a year they have covered 121 plants and they have analysed the heat loss and the overuse of electrical power. Projections would indicate that if the recommendations as put forward under the energy management programme were to be implemented by the industries it would have a potential saving of 18.8 per cent, or something in excess of \$5 million.

I apologize to members of the House, those who have asked us to send the bus into their particular communities. We will try to put in the second unit if it's within financial reason for the ministry and also if we can find the right personnel to run it. It will work on a constant basis throughout this province and I sincerely hope we'll find that its continuation will be pleasing, rewarding and will return financial dividends to the industries examined.

We've also produced for the energy management programme a brochure which has received great acceptance across the province, and of recent days the Baking Council of Canada has requested of our ministry sufficient copies so that they can distribute them to each and every bakery that is a member of their association from coast to coast in this country. I say again, this programme is important and will continue.

On May 4, 5 and 6 of this year in the city of Toronto we shall be holding the Manufacturing Opportunity Show. The show was last held in 1972 and it brings together a great number of companies in this province that are manufacturing goods or have the capability of manufacturing particular types of goods and are now looking for related industries that wish to purchase goods along their particular lines.

I think one of the more important areas of the Manufacturing Opportunity Show is for those industries now importing goods to this country which are unable, in their opinion, to find a supply of goods or a manufacturer in Ontario or Canada. They will



now have the opportunity to display the particular part or parts they are importing to see whether they can locate a Canadian or Ontario manufacturer to supply their needs.

In the venture this year at the Manufacturing Opportunity Show will be a corner of the building set aside to encourage and to give an opportunity to inventors to display their wares and their inventions. That particular area of the show, amazingly enough, has drawn a tremendous amount of interest and the capacity of the show, both for the inventors and in the regular exhibit, has now been exhausted. The show, I think, can be termed a tremendous success.

The 1972 exhibition reported that over \$50 million in new business was generated as a result of the show. I have no doubt that the success story will be as great for this year.

In 1975 the ministry went through the process of putting together 13 industrial sector analyses for the Province of Ontario, looking at industries section by section. I believe that the sector analyses will produce for this province a better understanding of the industries that we should be moving in to protect through our tariff negotiations. It will afford Ontario a better position in putting its positive points to the federal government in the relationship to the GATT negotiations that the federal government will be responsible for.

Both federally and provincially, we have gone about making decisions on tariff regulations, cutting tariffs, putting us into a free-trade position without really truly knowing the industries that we in Ontario and Canada should be putting up a very strong defence for with—I hate to use the word protection—with sufficient tariffs to make that industry continue to survive in the Province of Ontario.

A number of industries over the years, it has been said by federal and provincial people, should be let go because their economic impact on the community wasn't that great. Then we came to realize that some way down the road we had missed out by allowing the industry to slip through our fingers because when the product became a requirement or in a crisis time it wasn't available to us.

I think back to a situation which was decided on about four years ago, that the nylon cord industry in Canada should be allowed to drift to the United States and did. In 1974 when tire production was at its

peak nylon cord wasn't available to Canadian manufacturers and some difficulties happened to arise.

Those are the areas which, through the sector analysis, we hope we will be able to fend off. Copies of the sector analysis have received wide circulation. It is not a definite position of government, it is an opportunity for industry and the associations across this province to analyse and report back to government. I hope eventually that we will be able to draw some very positive conclusions, not only based on the bureaucracy that happens to serve the government but those that work in the private sector as well.

Tourism division: As many in this House will remember, it was reorganized into its present situation in 1973. It brought research, development and marketing into a single co-ordinated division and I think it has produced some very positive results for us. We believe we have a very sophisticated programme which sells the Province of Ontario, northern, eastern and central Ontario, not only to people of our own province and of our own country but in other markets of the world.

We will continue, of course, with our information centres throughout the province, with the 10 permanent ones we have and the 27 seasonal reception centres which have produced very positive and informative results for our people. Ontario has had good fortune in that while some provinces in 1975 lost some of their capacity and some of their tourist trade we were able to continue to improve and expand with an 11 per cent increase in the year 1975.

For every dollar that we spend in the field of promoting tourism in the Province of Ontario our returns statistically are \$260.

Mr. Reid: Does that include Minaki?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I shall come to that one.

Mr. Reid: I thought you might.

Mr. Laughren: How about Maple Mountain?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I shall come to that one. I don't think we will have to worry about Maple Mountain. I think it has been well taken care of by some legal actions which satisfy me as the minister, let me assure the member.

The expenditure by Quebec—for every dollar it spends in the field of tourism its return has been \$147; by the federal government,



for each dollar it has spent in the field of promoting tourism, the return has been \$175. So Ontario's programme has been very effective and has produced results for us.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder if this would be an appropriate place for the hon. member to move the adjournment of the debate?

**Hon. Mr. Bennett** moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Speaker:** As previously announced, the member for York Centre has filed notice of dissatisfaction, under standing order 27(g), with the answer given on March 17 concerning the land freeze at the Pickering airport site. In accordance with standing order 28(a), I now deem a motion to adjourn the House to have been made. The hon. member who has expressed his dissatisfaction and an hon. minister may now speak for five minutes each. I will call on the member for York Centre.

### LAND FREEZE

**Mr. Stong:** Thank you, sir. In 1969 the Province of Ontario developed a compatible land use table which dealt with problems of aircraft noise. It was in this context that a document called "The Annex of Understanding, relating to the Proposed New Toronto International Airport at Pickering" was drawn up and agreed upon between the federal and the provincial governments in 1972. Based on that table, a minister's order was issued which in effect froze the development of the land to existing uses. That was almost five years ago.

Immediately after the provincial election in September, 1975, the Premier (Mr. Davis) announced through the media that services essential to the development of the airport were to be withdrawn, thereby effectively cancelling the construction of that airport. Six months later, on March 17, 1976, I asked the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) when the freeze would be lifted, because in view of the announcements of the Premier, why should the government continue to cause hardships to the people of that area?

[10:30]

This most insensitive and oppressive situation can probably be best exemplified by the case of Mr. Albert Roberts. Mr. Roberts is a 67-year-old retired gentleman living in rented

premises on Avenue Rd. in Toronto. He bought 10 acres of land in Markham in 1962 using his entire life savings. His intention was to build a retirement home for him and his wife. The story of the treatment of Albert Roberts by this government as a result of its freeze is a sad one. If it doesn't bring tears to your eyes it surely does to his when he recounts his tale.

His property is in Markham and is located almost two concessions away from where the airport was proposed. He made an application to the planning committee on Aug. 3, 1972, requesting an amendment to the minister's order which froze his vacant land so that he could be permitted to build his retirement home. It was refused. Intervention was eventually made after all legal remedies were exhausted with the then Treasurer of Ontario either to purchase the property or to allow Mr. Roberts to build.

Both requests were refused by letter dated Oct. 24, 1973, over the signature of Donald Irvine, the then parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer, but only until Mr. Roberts could, and I quote, "prove that the rejection had caused him undue hardship." What kind of political games is this government playing—refusing a request, but in the same breath holding out as a carrot the very reason for the request in the first place, namely, undue hardship.

Again, on April 10, 1974, after efforts were made through his ministry for relief, the Minister of Housing (Mr. Handleman) refused. Reams of paper passed between the ministry and Mr. Roberts until Sept. 16, 1975, with Mr. Roberts asking and even pleading for help, on his own and through his then provincial member, Mr. Donald Deacon. But on each occasion he was put off by the ministry.

Then by letter dated Sept. 16, 1975, from the Premier's office, signed Bill Davis, Mr. Roberts received the final put-down. Not three days later the government had reversed its stand on the airport, but six months later again, on March 17, 1976, in answer to my question on the subject, the Treasurer said: "This matter is under consideration by the government."

**Mr. Speaker,** the freeze around the aborted Pickering site has been under consideration by this government for almost five years. When is it going to quit considering and do something? Six months ago this government announced the effective cancellation of that airport, so why hasn't the freeze been lifted? Why hasn't some relief been given to the people hurting the most?



**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Mr. Speaker, the answer to the hon. member's question by the hon. Treasurer was in fact, I suppose, the only answer that could be given to him, and that is that the matter is under consideration by the government. It is a question of policy. As to what that policy will be, it will be duly announced in this Legislature and for the hon. member to realize. The Treasurer really cannot give any other answer, nor can I as the Minister of Housing, until that policy is established by the government.

I think it is fair to say to the hon. member, though, to suggest as he has that the question of the land freeze has been under consideration by this government for five years is not correct. It is true the freeze was put on in 1972, but it was in September of 1975 that the decision was made not to provide services to that particular site as it related to the airport. So the question of whether the land freeze will be removed or not has only been under consideration, if we wish to use that terminology, since September, 1975. Prior to then, in accordance with the agreement we had entered into with the federal government, the land freeze remained in place under the considerations that that site would probably

be the airport that was being proposed by the federal government.

At the present time, as I think the hon. member knows and other members of this House know, the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) has been in discussions with the Minister of Transport in the federal government discussing what the future holds as far as that total area is concerned, because the federal government still has control over the land as it relates to any use for an airport. As far as the government is concerned at this stage, we want to conclude the discussions that are going on between the Minister of Transportation and Communications and the federal government, and at that time a definite position will be taken by this government. We have not removed the freeze at this date—that's quite correct—and when those discussions are complete, then there will be an announcement made as to the future of the land freeze in the area of the Pickering airport.

**Mr Speaker:** I deem the motion to adjourn to have been carried.

The House adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

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Ontario. Legislative Assembly

# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

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Wednesday, March 31, 1976

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Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe  
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

**Mr. Speaker:** Before entering upon the business of the day, I know that the House will wish to welcome a distinguished parliamentary visitor in the person of Sir Robin Vanderfelt, the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Sir Robin is in Canada for consultations with Premier Regan of Nova Scotia in his capacity of chairman of the executive committee of CPA, and to meet with officials of the Canadian area of the association. Sir Robin is seated in Mr. Speaker's gallery.

May I also at this time just draw attention to the note which should be on your desks—I presume it is—about an event that will take place around 5 o'clock this afternoon. We'd like to see as many of you as possible. In connection with that, the magazine which is referred to there, the *Parliamentarian*, is available in somewhat limited numbers at the entrance to the chamber.

## POINT OF PRIVILEGE

**Ms. Gigantes:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege as a member of this Legislature, and I seek your guidance. I would like to know how the members of this Legislature can transmit to the Ombudsman's office a request to have made available to the members of the Legislature a report on the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Detention Centre and conditions there. The report has been available for several weeks at the Ombudsman's office, and I seek your guidance, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps your help in expressing to the Ombudsman's office our desire to have that report brought before the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** I'm not familiar with the report. I shall look into it and take whatever action I deem to be necessary. Thank you.

Statements by the ministry.

## GAINS INCREASES

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise members that effective April 1,

Ontario GAINS income guarantees are being increased to \$269.30 per month for single pensioners and to \$538.60 per month for married couples, where both spouses qualify for GAINS.

The purpose of these adjustments is to ensure that increases in federal payments resulting from the indexing of old age security pensions and guaranteed income supplements are fully passed on to Ontario's GAINS recipients. Provincial GAINS payments will not be materially changed at this time. Thus, Ontario's maximum monthly GAINS payment to single pensioners will remain at \$38.88; while the maximum for couples will be increased nominally by 40 cents to \$99.04 per month in order to round up federal OAS/GIS payments. However, for the more than 6,000 GAINS recipients who do not qualify for federal OAS/GIS, Ontario's GAINS cheques will be increased by the full amounts of \$4.30 and \$8.60 per month for singles and married couples respectively in line with the increase in overall income guarantee levels.

Members will recall that, in addition to routinely passing on changes in federal OAS/GIS payments, the province has also regularly increased its own GAINS cheques to compensate for cost-of-living increases. Most recently, maximum monthly GAINS cheques were increased in October, 1975 by \$6.02 for singles and \$12.60 for couples; while in January, 1976 they were increased by \$2.85 for singles and \$6.28 for couples.

In summary, the maximum income guarantee level will be raised in April to \$3,231 per year for singles from \$2,600 when the GAINS programme was introduced in July, 1974 and to \$6,462 for married couples from the original level of \$5,200. Over the same period, the number of elderly people benefiting from the GAINS programme has increased from 258,000 to approximately 282,000.

The increases in federal and Ontario payments since the introduction of the GAINS programme in July, 1974 have worked well to protect the elderly from the effects of inflation. We will, of course, continue to re-

view the guaranteed income levels on a regular basis to ensure their continuing adequacy.

### RENT REVIEW

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Yesterday while answering a question from the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) dealing with rent review, I told the House that so far no appeals have been filed with the Residential Premises Rent Review Board. Since answering that question, on returning to my office yesterday, it came to my attention that in fact four appeals have been lodged by landlords with the board. To the best of my knowledge, no appeals have been filed by tenants at this time.

I just wanted to apologize to the House if my earlier statement was in any way misleading.

### HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to report to the House on the status of the appeals which have been heard by the Premier (Mr. Davis), the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) and by myself with respect to the hospitals slated for closing on April 1.

Clearly, since many of the appeals have been received within the past few days, the April 1 closing date previewed at the outset of the programme would be unfair. When the decisions on the appeals are announced, effective dates will also be announced. The closing date of April 1 for the hospitals at Kemptville, Virgil, Bobcaygeon and Copper Cliff stands. The Ministry of Health is now working with these hospitals to ensure appropriate wind-down procedures and caseload transfer.

However, in order for justice to be done to the constructive and informative appeal briefs which have been presented to the government, and in order to discharge responsibly the commitment made by the Minister of Health to the right of appeal, all figures and counter-proposals are being examined very carefully. I might say that, in some cases, the proposals indicate a preparedness to curtail operations or to modify the nature of service offered that is indeed worthy of very careful scrutiny.

The Ministry of Health is pursuing the examination of these appeals with the Premier in an open and positive fashion towards the goal of overall improvement of health delivery in Ontario as set by this government. Despite what may be implied by newspaper

reports, the government has not altered any decisions made with respect to any institutions slated for closing. What is indeed taking place is a careful and open-minded review of the briefs which have been presented, with a view to preparing a decision within the next few days.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. S. Smith:** If you had done that in the first place, you would have got the comments at the beginning.

**Mr. Speaker:** Before I call the next order of business, I would like to point out to the House that we also have another parliamentary visitor with us today from one of our sister Commonwealth countries in the person of Mr. Jack Slater, MP for the Gillis constituency, House of Assembly in South Australia, who is seated under the Speaker's gallery.

Oral questions. The hon. member for Wentworth.

### HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

**Mr. Deans:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question of the acting Minister of Health—in fact, I have two or three questions.

Would the minister be able to explain to the House whether the statements that appeared in today's press and which seem to indicate that the government is prepared to consider alternative uses for Doctors Hospital—and I hope that I can assume for all other hospitals—are true; whether the opportunity to provide alternatives will also be made available to all of the other hospitals which are being told that they must close their doors or eliminate their active treatment beds, and how is she going to manage to save the money that she's talking about saving if she is going to allow the change to take place so that it becomes something other than active treatment but is still to be kept in use? What does she have in mind, in other words?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, certainly those hospitals which have appealed for their varied reasons the closures as active treatment institutions must be given the right to have those appeals heard. Their briefs are being heard and they are being read very carefully. There are alternatives which can be, in fact, utilized in some of those institutions and some of them are very reasonable I would think.



The major cost to the health care delivery system in this province is the acute general hospital cost and it is that cost that we are attempting to minimize. There are reasonable alternatives which cost very much less, which perhaps some of these institutions might, in fact, be put to.

**Mr. Deans:** A supplementary question: Doesn't the minister feel that it might have been more appropriate to have done an evaluation of the health care delivery system of the Province of Ontario with an eye to finding out what those alternatives were and how they could be implemented, rather than disrupting entire communities with this threat of closing?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I would doubt that any other jurisdiction in the world has had as many surveys of its health care system as this jurisdiction has. We have a great deal of information about it—

**Mr. Reid:** How could you make so many mistakes then?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —a great deal of information about it, and that information has all been utilized in the decisions which were taken.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That doesn't stack up. That's nonsense.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Davidson:** Your surveys are wrong.

**Mr. Deans:** If the ministry has already conducted the surveys and if the information has been considered, what new information does the minister now have then that makes the ministry believe that it is possible to change the use to which those hospitals are currently being put in order to keep them in service? Will the minister please show us what rationale she has for either changing her mind, whether you are prepared to extend the same benefits to all other areas, and how it is that we are going to be able to come to conclusions different from the conclusions which she claims she already has reached?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would care to look at various reports which have come from committees of the Ministry of Health—

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Particularly from Gallup.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —from the council of health of the Province of Ontario over the

last several years, he will find that those suggestions have been put to institutions in the past. It is, unfortunately, only under severe pressure that boards of governors of hospitals apparently are willing to consider this kind of alternative.

**Mr. Angus:** You've never tried, how do you know?

Interjections.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** However, we do have a surplus of active treatment beds in the Province of Ontario related to any other jurisdiction and this must, in fact, be reduced if we are to make the kinds of modifications which will improve our health care system.

**Mr. Roy:** Why did you build the beds in the first place?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please, the member for Hamilton West with a supplementary.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Could the acting minister kindly give us the facts on which she bases the somewhat slanderous statement that hospital boards of governors would otherwise be unprepared to make constructive suggestions? How does she know if she has never asked them? When she finally asked them they were, in her words, "very constructive."

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please, this is not a debate.

**Mr. S. Smith:** What are the facts?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, the suggestion has been made rather forcefully upon occasion over the past decade to many of them and—

**Mr. S. Smith:** Oh, come off it.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —unfortunately some of them have not considered it. There are institutions—

**Mr. Singer:** Oh, come on.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Listen to the answer.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That is balderdash.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, there are institutions in this province where, in fact, those suggestions have been taken up. One of the institutions happens to be Chedoke, as a matter of fact, in Hamilton.

**Mr. Deans:** Are you still closing it?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, that is a specious remark and the member from the New Democratic Party knows it because we met with him the other day and discussed the problem with him.

**Mr. Deans:** Nonsense.

**Mr. Warner:** Did you say inaccurate?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** No decision has been taken at the moment on that situation.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We will have a final supplementary on this question from the member for Huron-Bruce.

[2:15]

**Mr. Gaunt:** Since the deadline of April 1 has been postponed, does the acting minister have a new deadline in mind with respect to the Clinton Public Hospital closing and will the decision with respect to that institution involve alternate uses?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I had hoped that I had made clear in my statement that the statement was in reference to all of the four institutions whose appeals we are considering at the moment. When the decision is made, the effective dates will be announced as well.

**Mr. Roy:** May I have a supplementary?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I said that was a final supplementary. It is developing into a debate. I will call for a new question from the member for Wentworth.

**Mr. Roy:** How do you arrive at your decision on supplementaries?

**Mr. Deans:** You will get another chance. Wait a second.

**Mr. McNeil:** Be around once in a while and you will know what is going on.

**Mr. Reid:** There is a new rule for every question.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

#### CHEDOKE HOSPITAL

**Mr. Deans:** I have a question for the acting Minister of Health related to the same matter: Can the minister provide the rationale for her own statement that one of the hospitals that did in fact comply and attempt to

comply with the suggestions of the ministry was Chedoke and that the ministry still went ahead in spite of their efforts and tried to close the beds?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I think that that is misrepresentation because we did not try to close the beds. The letter was sent as a suggestion because we did not have any other suggestions from the district health council at that time. The decision has been made to ask the district health council to make recommendations to the ministry to resolve this dilemma for the Hamilton bed situation, and we are hoping that they will do that on behalf of the citizens of that area.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Can the minister explain why she now says that? Hospital boards of governors have been ignoring ministry advice for the past 10 years.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Then will she say why the government has approved so many thousands of beds?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Will the hon. member take his seat? Does the member for Wentworth have further questions?

#### INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS

**Mr. Deans:** Yes, I have another question for the acting Minister of Health. Can the minister indicate what discussions have taken place between her ministry and the federal Ministry of Health with regard to the inoculations for swine flu? Can she indicate the rationale that is going to be used by this province in terms of who are going to receive the inoculations, how they are going to be administered and how they are going to be paid for?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, discussions are still taking place regarding this matter but it has been a federal-provincial decision that the federal government will be responsible for securing the vaccine. The federal government will provide for the provinces all the vaccine which it can acquire. It depends entirely upon the amount which is available to the Province of Ontario and other provinces, I would presume, but certainly to this province, which people will be inoculated.

If we have enough to inoculate the entire population, then I would propose that we should do so, with the reservation that those who are allergic to vaccines produced on egg



yolk would not be inoculated or would be inoculated in a different fashion. If we do not have sufficient vaccine to inoculate the entire population, it is proposed that those people who would be most highly at risk will be inoculated and we propose to use the health units throughout the province to do so.

**Mr. Deans:** Supplementary question: Does the ministry intend to have a fee attached to this? It was indicated this morning that the federal government thought the costs might range between 60 cents and \$1 per inoculation. Is it the intention of the Province of Ontario to recover that directly through OHIP or is it going to be provided free?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** That decision has not as yet been made. We are hoping, as I said, to use the services of the health units to provide the vaccine so that there should be no fee for the inoculation procedure itself. For the material, the decision has not been made.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Will the minister tell us will the vaccine contain immunization against types A and B viruses as well as swine flu, as we have been advised by some experts would be desirable?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** There are two vaccines available and it depends, I suppose, on which is going to be more readily available to us. There will be a monovalent and a polyvalent vaccine available. It is hoped that those people at very high risk at least would acquire the polyvalent vaccine. Those at lower risk might acquire the monovalent vaccine.

### BENEFITS INCREASES

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services, if I may, flowing from the statement of the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen). Is it the intention of the Ministry of Community and Social Services to make adjustments to the social family service benefits paid and to the general welfare assistance provided similar to those which are currently being made by the Ministry of Revenue for those under the GAINS programme?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** We have no plans at this time to do that.

**Mr. Deans:** Supplementary question. Might I ask the minister how he proposes that people—

**Mrs. Campbell:** Send them to work.

**Mr. Deans:** —in receipt of those benefits, the disabled and others, are going to be able to meet the rising costs of living in the Province of Ontario?

**Mr. Bounsall:** They're behind now.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** As the member knows, there has been a difference in rates. At one time they were kept parallel; that has lapsed and the intention isn't to keep those two rates consistent.

**Mr. Speaker:** Further questions?

**Mr. Deans:** One supplementary: Does the minister feel that somehow or other the disabled and others in the Province of Ontario don't feel the effects of the inflation?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** As the hon. member knows, the rate he is talking about, in terms of increases, certainly from the federal government, are geared to the cost of living index and they become automatic.

**Mr. Deans:** That's what GAINS was supposed to do.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** All right. It's not based on need. Our programmes are based on needs testing, so total income is taken into consideration in terms of supplementation.

**Mr. Deans:** Is the ministry ready to make adjustments?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** We have no plans at this time.

### INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Mr. Deans:** I have one final question of the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Can the minister indicate whether he has yet looked into the whole matter of the investment of capital by the president and his assistant at the Seneca College? Does he feel it appropriate that colleges, funded almost entirely, if not entirely, out of public funds, should be permitted to invest those public funds as they see fit? And does he think that perhaps some investigation of the matter might be carried out to determine whether or not it ought to be followed in this province?

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** I'm prepared to say to the hon. member that a statement in greater depth will be made shortly on that particular question. I replied in part last week to a

similar question. I would like to refrain, in fact I will not answer in greater detail at this time; but I will, in the next week, give a more detailed answer to the member's question.

**Mr. Deans:** By way of supplementary: Is the minister able to indicate, as a matter of policy, whether he deems it appropriate for public institutions to use public tax dollars to invest at the whim of the president and his helper?

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** No, I don't think public funds should be invested at the whim of the president or his administration, but I think there are some positive rules established and perhaps in the not too distant future we will be able to identify more positive guidelines in this respect.

At the moment, from any information I have, there is no doubt there is no mishandling of those funds. I think the amounts are adequate, not in excess of what is required in the way of surplus. There might be individual colleges with perhaps a larger share than some of the others. If one views the system in total, I'm quite convinced those funds are only a normal and adequate amount to handle the liabilities they could expect to have.

Interjection.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is this a supplementary? The member for Kitchener-Wilmot.

**Mr. Sweeney:** Is the minister aware of the fact that the figure quoted last week of an excess of \$2 million, in the most recent statement is now \$3.4 million; and that that represents about 15 per cent of the budget of that particular college?

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** Yes, I'm fully aware of all the facts and figures. As I indicated earlier, I'll make a more extensive statement in the next week or so.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final supplementary, the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

**Mr. Warner:** Is the minister aware that while the college has been accumulating more than \$200,000 a year in interest, seven faculty members have been fired as of September of 1976 from the diploma nursing programme?

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** I think it would be quite unfair to relate those two particular events. There are some very definite problems with the number of nurses who are needed in this province.

**Mr. Davidson:** As a result of your policies.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** It made good sense to ask the community colleges to reduce the number of people that they are accepting into their programme. I think the member would agree with me that right now there is a very considerable surplus in the number of qualified nurses in this province.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I fail to see where that was a supplementary to the first question; I didn't get the portent of it earlier.

## FUNDS WITHHELD FROM HOSPITALS

**Mr. S. Smith:** Another question for the acting Minister of Health. It's her day today.

**Mr. Foulds:** It was her day yesterday.

**Mr. Martel:** Out playing tennis?

**Mr. S. Smith:** Would she confirm a claim made by the Ontario Hospital Association that \$16 million was being withheld from hospitals over the past two months because of insufficient funds. When will she make up this shortfall?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I can't confirm that claim because I do not have that information. I shall investigate, however.

**Mr. S. Smith:** I will undertake to send the information to the minister.

## USE OF COAL BY HYDRO

**Mr. S. Smith:** A question of the Minister of the Environment: Will the minister table this government's copy of the letter by the federal Deputy Minister of the Environment expressing concern about Hydro's plans to continue burning coal to produce energy for export to the United States?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** I understand, Mr. Speaker, that that letter went to the National Energy Board. I don't imagine there is any problem in getting a copy of it, and if I do I will table it. All I would want to say at this time is that Hydro has been importing low sulphur coal from the United States for a number of years, and it isn't for the prime purpose of exporting hydro to the United States. This is to supplement high sulphur coal that is used from Canadian sources so that our ambient air quality standards can be met.



**Mr. S. Smith:** Supplementary: Is the minister in disagreement with the views of his director of the environmental protection service who gave the opinion that the environment would be poisoned unnecessarily if the exports are approved? It's the minister's own director who said that.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** That was an official of Environment Canada.

**Mr. Roy:** Supplementary: Doesn't he feel himself, as Minister of the Environment, some concern about the fact that we are importing coal, burning it here, and polluting this area to export electricity to the US? As a principle, doesn't he sort of have concern about that for the future?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask the hon. member how he would fire a coal-generating plant unless he used coal, and we are using the highest grade coal to do just that.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The member for Hamilton West, further questions.

**Mr. Roy:** That got you excited. That woke you up did it, Bill?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** I have been here for two weeks, where have you been?

**Mr. Roy:** I finally woke you up over there.

**Mr. S. Smith:** They're being very provocative, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. S. Smith:** I will try to involve the Treasurer in something more constructive, Mr. Speaker. I will ask him a question so that he doesn't have to be out of order in his answers.

#### PROPOSED PLAN FOR ONTARIO

**Mr. S. Smith:** Will the Treasurer confirm that a proposed plan for Ontario will be released next week?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Roy:** Oh, you are a real genius.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please, order. Supplementary question.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Supplementary: Will the plan that has been referred to in the news-

papers, of which the Treasurer I am sure is aware, just be another vague strategy such as the Toronto-centred region plan which is now 10 years old, or will it in fact be a real land-use plan with mechanisms for implementation?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, if, as and when these plans are tabled we will know those answers.

**Mr. Roy:** Are you proud of him, Bill?

**Mr. S. Smith:** This is another supplementary. These answers of course are very helpful, Mr. Speaker, and I would love to hear more of them. Will the plans supersede or elaborate upon the COLUC report?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, the world will unfold as it will and we will know that next week.

Interjections.

**Mr. S. Smith:** That's beautiful; I really like that one. In fact, you should patent that, that's very original.

[2:30]

#### PAYMENT TO DRAKE PERSONNEL

**Mr. S. Smith:** A question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Having had two weeks now to find out the answer, would the minister inform this House just how much is being paid to Drake Personnel for the hiring and paying of the rent review personnel? Will the minister tell us the terms of this contract?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, the contract was entered into by the Chairman of Management Board and I believe he has that information.

**Mr. S. Smith:** May I redirect it, please, to the Chairman of Management Board?

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** I'm just looking for it.

**Mr. Reid:** There goes the question period.

**Mr. Nixon:** Get out the marbles.

**Mr. Reid:** You just happen to have a 12-page document.

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** I just happen to have it here.

**Mr. Nixon:** He said "how much money?"

**Mr. S. Smith:** We don't have the time to waste.

**Mr. Speaker:** I presume the hon. minister is going to start on page 2?

**Mr. Reid:** From one we get nothing; from the other, we get too much.

**Mr. Roy:** Can we revert to statements?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; let's get on with the answer.

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** On Dec. 9, 1975—

**Mr. S. Smith:** Please table it; we don't mind if he wants to table it. I don't want to ruin the whole question period with this sort of farce, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Ruston:** Time up, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. May I ask the hon. minister if it is a lengthy answer?

**Mr. Reid:** If it is the minister's, it has to be lengthy.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member from Hamilton West indicated he would be happy with tabling it if it is lengthy.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** It is obviously not of public importance or you never would have asked.

**Mr. S. Smith:** The way it is being treated is farcical, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** I will attempt to give a synopsis and table the whole report.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is obviously an important question so we will hear the answer at least.

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** On Dec. 15, 1975, tender proposals were sent to three firms which were recommended by the Association of Professional Placement Agencies as having the capability to meet the province-wide requirements of the rent review programme. Only two of them tendered.

**Mr. S. Smith:** I didn't ask if there were tenders. I have just said, Mr. Speaker, that the question was how much is being paid? It is a simple question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It's too early to tell yet.

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** The contract called for the provision of 277 trained clerical stenographers, typists, clerks, other support personnel and administrative officers—

**Mr. S. Smith:** And they all lived together in a candy house in a forest.

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** —with salaries and wages equal to equivalent positions in the civil service plus 11.8 per cent for employee benefits and for replacements of those who came and then left.

**Mr. Singer:** That still wasn't the question.

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** The contract total is in the amount of \$1.6 million; approximately \$416,000 or 34 per cent of the total salary cost represents charges for employee benefits and the service fee. The service fee alone represents 22 per cent and that service fee covers all the personnel costs of administering this group.

**Mr. Singer:** How much was that?

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** The only administration paid by the government is the head office clerk. I will table the entire report.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Was it \$350,000? Approximately?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Deans:** Supplementary: Would the Chairman of Management Board care to explain to the House why we didn't use the offices of Canada Manpower?

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** Yes, indeed, because Canada Manpower can supply personnel but not offices, office furniture and administration of that personnel; nor the actual interviewing of staff, and the replacement of them if they didn't turn out to be effective.

**Mr. Deans:** Office furniture?

Interjections:

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is that the answer?

**Mr. Singer:** Supplementary: Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain to us why he spent \$352,000 and did not avail himself of the personnel services of the Province of Ontario and save that money?

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** Mr. Speaker, to employ people in all parts of the province through the central office of the Civil Service Commission would not be possible. The personnel departments of all the ministries are in Toronto, and they don't have to hire overnight about 300 people.

**Mr. Nixon:** I thought that is what they were there for.

**Mr. R. S. Smith:** How does the minister know?



**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We will have a final supplementary from the member for Windsor-Sandwich.

**Mr. Bounsall:** Mr. Speaker, can the Chairman of the Management Board tell us why Drake Personnel was not asked in its hiring to contact the local Canada Manpower offices for referrals from them which, in many cases, was not done—certainly in Windsor—or to place a specific ad—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I believe the question was asked.

**Mr. Bounsall:** —for rent control officers rather than the general ad which was placed?

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** Mr. Speaker, one of the specifications in the tender call was that the personnel provided will be recruited in accordance with the provisions of existing employment practices legislation which, I assume, would certainly imply to me that they would go to Manpower if they needed to.

**Mr. Deans:** What is the minister in charge of? Couldn't he have got the furniture?

#### TRAINING OF MINERS

**Mr. Germa:** I have a question of the Minister of Colleges and Universities with reference to the committee inquiring into the matter of miners becoming a certified trade group. Now that the Ontario Mining Association has effectively frustrated the work of this committee, what is his next move in this regard?

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** Later today I had hoped to make a rather extensive statement in regard to the Speech from the Throne on the Industrial Training Council. I think matters of this nature are just prime opportunities for that industrial council to come effectively to grips with that kind of problem, and I'm sure it will do so in the not too distant future.

**Mr. Martel:** Supplementary: Isn't it a fact that the ministry and the government officials were the ones who scuttled any possibility of establishing a mining certificate for miners?

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** I don't believe so.

#### MINAKI LODGE

**Mr. Reid:** I have a question of the Minister of Industry and Tourism in regard to

his white elephant in northwestern Ontario. Can he explain how the cost of Minaki Lodge has escalated by \$3 million in the last year? Can he confirm whether or not—

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Does your brother John know you are asking these questions?

**Mr. Reid:** —that just the maintenance charges of the lodge, which we understand will not be opened now for at least four years, are in fact \$30,000 per month? Is this part of his government's restraint programme?

**Mr. S. Smith:** They catch poisoned fish, mind you.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** To answer the last part of the question first, yes, it is part of the constraint programme of the government of the Province of Ontario, that they have decided to forego the completion.

**Mr. Nixon:** No wonder you are so successful. That is the way you save money.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Close hospitals and open lodges.

**Mr. Nixon:** That is why taxes are going up.

**Mr. Reid:** You could keep a few hospital beds open that way with that money.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon minister has the floor.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** It's your time. We decided to defer the completion of the Minaki reconstruction programme in light of the constraint programme. Inasmuch as we've cut back in other areas in this province, we thought it was essential that we should also defer the final operation of Minaki.

As to the \$3-million figure, I'm not quite sure where the member happened to arrive at that cost. It was clearly said in this House at the time we took back Minaki Lodge, that we brought it under the ownership of the Province of Ontario so that it would not fall into the hands of the first mortgagees who happened to be Americans.

**Mr. Reid:** They can't afford it now.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** We clearly indicated that they would automatically have held it. Whether they could afford it or not, the fact is that they would have become heir to it because of defaults in payments on the mortgage.

**Mr. Nixon:** They don't want to pay that \$30,000 a month.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** I indicated clearly at the time that we were going to do a refurbishing job on the lodge at a total cost in the range, in addition to the buy-back rights, of \$5 million.

**Mr. Davidson:** Who can afford to stay there?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** As to the cost of maintaining this lodge over the next period of time, I'm not sure of the monthly cost, but we will continue to operate Pistol Point Park that is presently on site.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Who wants to stay there to catch poisoned fish?

**Mr. Davidson:** Who could afford to stay there?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The member for Rainy River may have a supplementary.

**Mr. Reid:** Is the minister aware that the executive director of the tourism division is quoted as giving the \$6.3-million figure? Will the minister table in this House the cost; who the contractors are; and what is being paid for this sum of money? Will he table all the costs that he has to date and will he give us an idea of when this place may be open?

**Mr. Foulds:** It is already on the order paper.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** First of all, on the point of \$6.3 million—I've answered the question in the first part of the member's question—clearly it cost us, to buy back and to pay off the ODC loan that was outstanding as well as the first mortgage with the American firm, in excess of \$1 million. It was \$1,250,000. In addition to that, I indicated to this House that we would spend \$5 million in refurbishing and trying to put Minaki back into operation.

**Mr. Singer:** Isn't that awful? It's unbelievable!

**Mr. Reid:** But you have spent that much and it's not open.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** That money has now been spent; that is correct, sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** The member is absolutely right. There is a further extension to

the plan, because we said it would be a phased operation, and we have the first phase completed. We have postponed the second phase. As to tabling the figures, I shall take that under advisement.

**Mr. Reid:** We didn't know you made a contract with a millionaire. A white elephant.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. A final supplementary, the member for Fort William.

**Mr. Angus:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister of Industry and Tourism would now consider placing the Minaki Lodge development on the auction block to recoup the millions of dollars that the Province of Ontario spent on this project, in order that we may have some more money to spend on our hospitals and secondary industry in northern Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Do you want to sell it to the Americans? I thought you were a socialist.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** Mr. Speaker, I am the one who first said that as far as I was concerned the lodge should go back into private hands, and over the last two years we have attempted with the federal agencies, as well as our own ODC and our own ministry, to secure an outside purchaser.

**Mr. Singer:** They are all white elephants.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Everybody wants a white elephant.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** You know, I have a great deal of advice from over there and they should know a great deal about white elephants in that party, let me assure them.

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** Mr. Speaker, if we are to dispose—

Interjection.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** —of this particular operation, or lodge, it will have to be brought to a completion and be first in operation. I would hope that the first step to persuade it to go back into private hands is that we'll have a private firm of hotel operators that would participate with the province at the completion date. Then, if the project obviously becomes a financial success, or can be a viable one in the private hands, it will likely go in that direction.



**Mr. Reid:** It will never be viable.

Interjections.

**Mr. Martel:** As long as it is losing money, keep it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

### LAYOFFS OF WORKERS

**Mr. Kennedy:** Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Labour: With reference to plant layoffs, would the minister consider requiring plants which have layoffs of fewer than 50 in number to give notification to the ministry in order that it may try to be of assistance to those people who lose their employment?

**Mr. Deans:** Try to be of assistance? They are creating unemployment.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Also, would the ministry re-examine some of the assistance that is offered to see if it can be of further help to those employees who are laid off?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, the ministry is at this time examining the termination legislation with a view to making modifications which will make it more equitable for all workers who may be laid off. There are mechanisms now which can be used in conjunction with Manpower which the ministry does, in fact, establish when the company laying off employees, or the union to which those employees belong, makes application to the ministry for that kind of assistance.

**Mr. Deans:** Are you going to give them jobs in the hospitals?

### FALCONBRIDGE SMELTER EMISSIONS

**Mr. Martel:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of "the statesman," if I can get his attention.

**Mr. Hodgson:** Jealous, Elie?

**Mr. Martel:** Well no, there is only one in the House, and I want to recognize it.

**Hon. Mr. Bernier:** Who, me?

**Mr. Martel:** On Feb. 5, I wrote to the minister concerning the conditions at Falconbridge smelter and he replied recently stating the following: "These time-weighted studies are being done in the smelter and form the basis for providing relief where and when required."

**Hon. Mr. Bernier:** Is this question directed to me?

**Mr. Martel:** Yes, you are the statesman. Could the minister tell me, based on the directive by Falconbridge that men cannot leave their place of work until concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> have reached 15 parts per million, how that corresponds to the ministry policy of five parts per million over an eight-hour period?

**Hon. Mr. Bernier:** Mr. Speaker, I didn't catch the first part of the member's question. I wonder if he would repeat it?

**Mr. Martel:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wrote the minister about the conditions at Falconbridge since the layoff and the minister responded to my letter recently stating: "These time-weighted studies are being done in the smelter and form the basis for providing relief where and when required."

Based on Falconbridge's instructions of recent date that the men could not leave the place of work until concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> gas have reached 15 parts per million, how in fact are the men supposed to know that they can leave a work place which has been over-exposed, based on the fact that the ministry's criterion is five parts per million and the company is saying they can't get out until it is 15 parts per million?

[2:45]

**Hon. Mr. Bernier:** Mr. Speaker, I'd be glad to look into that detail and report back to the hon. member.

**Mr. Martel:** Would the minister at the same time tell me when was the last time an inspection was conducted at the Falconbridge operation, for both gas and dust?

**Hon. Mr. Bernier:** Mr. Speaker, I'd be glad to get that information.

**Mrs. Campbell:** That's a new question.

### HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

**Mr. Conway:** Mr. Speaker, a question of the acting Minister of Health: Will the minister tell this House if there is a surplus of chronic beds in the Perth area and, further, confirm a report that attempts by the Great War Memorial Hospital in the town of Perth to get chronic beds have been thwarted?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I don't think any attempts made by the board of that hospital have been thwarted at all. As a matter of fact, the hospital board and a committee of the ministry is examining the bed requirements and the situation in Perth at length right at the moment.

**Mr. Conway:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Does it concern the acting Minister of Health that her parliamentary assistant, the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman) is perhaps in a position of conflict of interest, given the position of Wiseman private hospital and the chronic care bed situation there?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I am sorry; I can't hear the member.

**Mr. Speaker:** No answer?

**Mr. Nixon:** She said she couldn't hear.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I am sorry; I can't hear the question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Conway:** Doesn't it concern the minister in any way that her parliamentary assistant, the member for Lanark, given the fact that there is some family ownership in the Wiseman private hospital which is involved in chronic care beds there—does that potential for conflict of interest concern her? Would she inform us of that?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I regret very much that any such statement has been made by a member of this Legislature—

**Mr. Nixon:** You mean it does not concern you?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —about an individual who has worked diligently on behalf of the Ministry of Health and on behalf of the people of Ontario. If a conflict of interest could be construed to exist, I shall most certainly investigate it, but I really do not like the innuendo that this individual has made.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Are you going to run for leader now? You have got the qualifications.

**An hon. member:** He ought to apologize.

**Mr. Conway:** On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I would simply state that because we have in this province a set of guidelines governing the conflict of interest potential on behalf of members of the ministerial bench, I thought perhaps we might be given a similar set of circumstances governing parliamentary assistants.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is not a point of privilege on the part of the hon. member.

**Mr. Cassidy:** A supplementary: In view of the minister's answer, will the minister return to this House within a couple of days and give us a specific statement about the possible

conflict of interest involved in the parliamentary assistant's wife running a private hospital in the area?

**Mr. Speaker:** Any answer? The member for Port Arthur.

**Mr. Cassidy:** There is no answer, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Nixon:** What is the matter with that?

**Mr. S. Smith:** The minister is closing chronic beds there, but she has some chronic beds.

**Mr. Cassidy:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I realize the minister is entitled to refuse to reply but I would put on the record that the minister is refusing to reply.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is not a point of order.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Why doesn't the minister stand up?

**An hon. member:** Don't get so mad.

#### TEACHER-BOARD DISPUTES

**Mr. Foulds:** Mr. Speaker, a question of the Premier: In view of the Premier's statement yesterday in reply to a question from the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Lewis) with regard to the Windsor and Sault Ste. Marie teacher-board negotiations, and on the understanding the cabinet considered the situations this morning, was he aware in his deliberations of a memorandum sent out March 8 by the Ontario School Trustees Council, which says:

However, under no circumstances should a school board agree to final-offer selection or arbitration on matters that are not directly related to salaries and fringe benefits. Matters relating to the control, nature and policy of the educational programme should not be left to third party adjudication.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Is this a speech or what?

**Mr. Mancini:** Is this a speech?

**Mr. Foulds:** Does the Premier not find that an obstructionist memorandum? Does the Premier not think that it could lead to bad-faith bargaining and does he not think that the ERC should look into it to see if it actually contravenes sections 3 and 9 of the School Board and Teachers' Collective Negotiations Act?



**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the particular document. I'd be delighted to bring it to the attention of the ERC. I sense that documents are sent out by both sides in these negotiations, perhaps even by the teaching profession from time to time, and I don't examine these either. I'd be delighted to bring it to the attention of ERC.

**Mr. Foulds:** Supplementary: In view of the four or five outstanding disputes that we've had in the last few months, and in view of the reluctance of the trustees in these cases to go to voluntary arbitration, does the Premier not think that the government should examine—

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** There's a conflict of interest for you right there.

**Mr. Foulds:** —whether or not they are involved in a concerted effort to avoid one of the legitimate routes provided for in Bill 100?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, I am only going by memory, but I think my memory is correct, and I mentioned it to the hon. member's leader yesterday. I could be wrong, but I recall that the Metro Toronto school board did suggest they would go to voluntary arbitration and this was not accepted by the teaching profession. The hon. member is saying that in his view now the legislation should be amended to make voluntary arbitration in fact—

**Mr. Foulds:** That's not what I said.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** All right. All I'm saying is he can't have it both ways. If he is saying that this should be really the case for both sides—

**Mr. Foulds:** All we want is enactment of the legislation in the way it was designed.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** —that's tremendous, but please don't just put it on one side, as is that party's custom.

#### BROWDALE OPERATIONS

**Mr. Eakins:** Mr. Speaker, to the acting Minister of Health: Will the acting minister tell the House if the audit that has been ordered into the affairs of Browndale Ontario is complete?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** To my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, they are not as yet complete. When they are, I shall be pleased to report on them.

**Mr. Eakins:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Will this be tabled in the House?

**Hon. Mr. Stephenson:** I shall most certainly report about the audit, Mr. Speaker. I shall have to check about the total report.

#### DAYCARE OPERATIONS OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

**Ms. Sandeman:** A question of the Minister of Community and Social Services: Is the minister aware that the ceiling imposed on expenditures of Children's Aid Societies has forced the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society to seriously consider closing its daycare centre? Further, would the minister assure this House that he considers daycare centres run by Children's Aid Societies are part of the essential protective and child care services provided by the societies, and that budgetary allowance must be made for their operation?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Well, there are two parts to that.

**Mrs. Campbell:** That is obvious.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** In reply to the first part, no, I don't accept that there's going to be any deterioration of service in connection with that Children's Aid Society or any Children's Aid Society in this province. I may say—

**Mr. Moffatt:** I don't believe it.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** —for the information of the members, that last year the average increase of all Children's Aid Societies—

**Mr. Davidson:** It's they who are saying it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** —in Ontario was 22.9 per cent; in other words, almost a 23 per cent increase over the year before.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Who is this guy?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** This year, they will be given another 5½ per cent over last year's funding, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Deans:** Whether it is adequate or not.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Additionally, I am reviewing every Children's Aid Society's budget to ensure—

**Mr. Moffatt:** Answer, answer.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Will somebody pull the plug on the tape?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** —that no child will suffer because of the constraint programme. And that, of course, includes this society to which the member refers. That's the first part of the question.

As to the second part, insofar as daycare centres are concerned, normally daycare centres that are subsidized are either operated by the municipalities themselves or else they enter into contracts with the owners—

**Mr. Moffatt:** He talks automatically and makes no sense.

**Mr. Davidson:** If the minister has a statement, please table it in the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** —and operators of those Children's Aid Societies—

An hon. member: Sit down, baldy.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** —so that they are eligible for provincial funding.

**Mrs. Campbell:** If he doesn't know the answer, surely he can be short and say so?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Again, as members know, provincial subsidies in terms of operating costs of daycare centres—

**Mr. Moffat:** Do you believe yourself?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** —in this province will be about \$27 million in the current fiscal year.

**Ms. Sandeman:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it a short supplementary?

**Ms. Sandeman:** Yes, a very short supplementary.

**Mr. Singer:** Shorter than the answer.

**Mr. Nixon:** Ask Michael Houlton.

**Ms. Sandeman:** I had some difficulty following the convolutions of the answer, but I understand—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We can't hear the question.

**Ms. Sandeman:** Did I understand the minister to say that he did not consider the closing of a daycare centre to represent a deterioration of the service offered?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** No, I didn't say that. If the member had listened, she would have heard the answer.

Interjections.

**Mr. Deans:** Well, what can you say—

## MOSQUITO CONTROL

**Mr. Gaunt:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Has the ministry yet decided which insecticide will be used in Ontario in the mosquito control programme to prevent encephalitis outbreaks this summer?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I understand the insecticide being recommended by the pesticide advisory committee is Abate.

**Mr. Reid:** Yes, that is the one we were going to recommend.

**Mr. Gaunt:** Supplementary: Could the minister tell me why the larvicides Altosid and Flit MDL were not on the ministry's approved list because they are very safe and non-toxic to humans, even more so than Abate?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the application for approval of that particular larvicide wasn't made to the advisory committee in time for this particular season—in the event that there is any problem this season.

Really, the article in today's Star and the answer by Mr. Ruf would be our answer. This is information that he gets from the advisory committee and basically, as it said, Altosid is only in its testing stage and does not act on all species of mosquitoes and is not as effective as Abate.

Contrary to what the hon. member has said, Abate is considered just as safe as the other one recommended.

**Mr. Speaker:** The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Mr. Lawlor from the standing private bills committee presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr3, An Act respecting the Borough of Scarborough;

Bill Pr4, An Act respecting the Township of Nepean.

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments:

Bill Pr2, An Act respecting the Township of Wicksteed.



Hon. Mr. Snow presented the annual report of the Ontario Highway Transport Board for the calendar year 1975.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry presented the first annual report of the Ministry of the Attorney General for the year 1974-1975 for the consideration of the House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is too much background noise in the chamber. Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: There is too much foreground nonsense as well.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. minister with a further report.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, in response to a request from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis), I am pleased to table a report of the air quality assessment of United Asbestos to which I have referred publicly on a number of occasions. I have also included a copy of my own ministry's report which shows that the levels of asbestos fibres from that particular plant are slightly higher. The members would also be glad to know, I am sure, that the meetings at Matachewan and Kirkland Lake to which I referred publicly will take place on April 13 and 14.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

Orders of the day—I am sorry, there is a bill; I didn't notice it. The hon. member for Scarborough Centre.

Mr. Mancini: Stand up, Frank.

Mr. Drea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought perhaps the sound system hadn't improved since my remarks yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: And you didn't do it any good?

#### ABORTION REFERRAL REGISTRATION ACT

Mr. Drea moves first reading of bill intituled, An Act to register the Referring of Abortions.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, the bill provides for: 1. The registration of individuals charging a fee for referring individuals outside of

Canada for abortion; 2. The bonding of abortion referrers; 3. The setting aside of abortion referral fees in a trust account pending the results of post-operative medical examination by the local medical officer of health of the woman who has undergone the abortion.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

#### THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the hon. Minister of Industry and Tourism.

Mr. Cassidy: That's the \$28,000 man.  
[3:00]

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I shall conclude my remarks in spite of the sarcasm of the member for Ottawa Centre. That's fine. He can keep it any way he wants it, sir.

May I continue with the programme of tourism and its development? In my concluding remarks yesterday evening, I indicated the return we are receiving in Ontario for a dollar spent and related it and compared it to the Canadian expenditure and to the Province of Quebec's expenditure for promoting tourism. There have been some great success stories in the tourism field for us.

Last year 56 per cent of all the Americans travelling in Canada came to the Province of Ontario as the principal destination for their holiday period. That's a remarkable increase, because in 1967 that figure was 46 per cent. Through extra expenditures and wise placing of advertising, it is now 56 per cent. We hope that in this year of the Olympics in Montreal we will retain that percentage for the Province of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder if we could have a little less noise in the House so that we could hear the hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Last year, Mr. Speaker, the Province of Ontario was fortunate to produce for the economy, through the field of tourism, \$2.6 billion which is a very substantial return to the individual communities. Just short of \$1 billion of these funds was from our American visitors to Ontario.

Tourism missions have been taken by our ministry to the European market on three

occasions in the last two years. I can sincerely report that the success story as a result of those missions is more than worth the cost to the province that is expended by the ministry. The last mission was to England and Scotland a week ago and I am pleased to report, having discussed the situation with some of the people on the mission, that they felt after the first day or two on the mission that the journey was indeed worth their time.

We shall continue to promote tourism for central, eastern and northern Ontario.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are too many conversations being carried on.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** The objective in promoting tourism to northern Ontario is to try to increase its percentage of the overall expenditures in the province. At the moment we have about 18 per cent—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are too many conversations being carried on during the throes of this debate. Would the hon. members kindly give courtesy to the hon. minister so that he may continue his remarks?

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I suggest you name this fellow.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** I was indicating, Mr. Speaker, that the objective of the ministry between now and 1980 is to try to increase the revenue position of the overall tourist market for northern Ontario from its present 18 per cent to a 26 per cent level, and we believe that can be achieved.

Let me for a moment just mention that we have gone along with the government's programme of decentralization from the city of Toronto and Queen's Park to try to offer our services in the various areas of the province. Over the last three years we have been fortunate enough to establish 21 field offices in this province which we believe now serve the individual communities on a much more sophisticated basis than we could achieve from a central point here in the city.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Nothing has been achieved from that.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** While some people say nothing has been achieved, I would suggest that if one would open his eyes and look around, he might find there has been a fair amount of achievement even in eastern Ontario as well as in the northern part of our province. When one does not want to look at the situation openly—

**Mr. Cassidy:** Talk to Smiths Falls about that. They are beside themselves trying to get assistance.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** Smiths Falls has had the assistance of this ministry and if the member would just listen for a moment, we are also assisting the people in the field of opening up their new municipal industrial park.

**Mr. Cassidy:** They weep when they come to Toronto. There is more industry along a mile of the 401 than in all of eastern Ontario.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** There is no doubt that there are certain advantages along 401. That's why we have some incentive programmes in our ministry, to try to encourage industry to locate in various parts of the province where not all of the services are as conveniently located as one might find in this part of our province.

**Mr. Cassidy:** But those programmes aren't working.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** Very clearly the programmes have been working. Municipalities have been applying for them and I will give the member the facts and figures.

Five hundred and seven industries last year made application for and received financial assistance through the loan programmes of NODC, ODC and EODC for a total of \$89 million, a sum far exceeding anything we have had in the years prior to this. May I say that over \$22 million went into the tourism field to develop and enhance that programme, something we have never achieved before. I think it's a step in the right direction. Eastern Ontario and northern Ontario were the two parts of the province which principally received those funds, and I think it speaks well for the interest of those communities in developing their industrial programmes and getting on with creating meaningful employment.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Does six per cent unemployment represent success?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** Mr. Speaker, at the moment we are in the process of implementing the completion of the programme for municipal industrial parks under the Ontario Land Corp. and with the Ontario Development Corp. I am pleased to report that at this stage there have been some 40 applications by municipalities across the Province of Ontario. The incentive, of course, as was clearly indicated in the time of the legislation, will



be that in the first year there will be no interest charged and the amount of interest charged in the second, third, fourth and fifth years will increase proportionately. The interest rate has yet to be established, but I hope that will be achieved this afternoon at a Management Board meeting that we are having.

I say to the members of the Legislature that there are many programmes within the ministry that have been functioning extremely well. Trade conditions have changed in the world and are continuing to change. We have to be able to modify our programmes that would be compatible with the federal programmes so that they might succeed in moving Canadian products out of the Province of Ontario into foreign markets and so that we can succeed in luring new industries from other countries of the world to relocate in the Province of Ontario. That is going to be one of our principal objectives.

As I said last evening, another key point at this stage of the game in the field of trading is to put together turnkey operations so that we can sell completely Canadian packages. And I use the word "Canadian," because while a great deal of the content of goods in any package being sold by Canadians comes from the Province of Ontario, if we are going to be successful we're going to have to blend together all of the industries and capabilities that are at our fingertips here in Canada.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Does six per cent unemployment represent success?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** Mr. Speaker, the question has been clearly placed, does six per cent unemployment indicate a success story? I would trust that the member who spoke would use a little more good judgement, if he has any, and consider the fact that six per cent is not an unusual figure at this time in world terms. If we look around the world, we see unemployment situations in England, France and other countries; there is a world economic situation that Ontario is not going to change alone.

**Mr. Cassidy:** And we have one of the highest rates in the industrial world.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** But we certainly can contribute to changing it by the constraint programme that this government has brought in; and with a little bit of encouragement by certain people in the community for people to work towards achieving those goals, maybe we can turn the economic situation of this prov-

ince around and thereby also enhance the employment opportunities at this time and move down the road. But it's not all going to be accomplished in one night.

**Mr. Cassidy:** But you've had 32 years to turn the situation around.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** May I say that if we're going to look at the last 30 years, maybe we should look at the low points of unemployment. Economics have trends up and down; governments for years have tried to find ways to level them out, and not with the greatest degree of success that they would like.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That's what we're saying.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** We're going through one such period at the moment, and I'm sure that we shall be successful, because we have people in this party and in this government who are prepared to apply themselves to the challenge at hand to bring things back into line.

**Mr. Cassidy:** The long-term rate of unemployment keeps going up under your government.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** I conclude my remarks by saying that I am very much aware of the fact that there is an unemployment situation in the Province of Ontario and in Canada. I also am aware of the fact that through the loan programmes and the incentive programmes of this government we have been able to lure new industry into the Province of Ontario and to find employment for roughly 125,000 new bodies on the market annually over the last five years. That's an accomplishment.

**Mr. Cassidy:** New bodies?

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** Employment for bodies, yes.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Do you mean men and women?

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** Sure, he can sit there and laugh. He wouldn't know what it is to work, because he has never had to go out and work; he has lived from the public trough all his life.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Mr. Speaker, the member is clearly upset. Would he withdraw that remark, because I've obviously worked in the private sector for many years before coming to work in the Ontario Legislature?

**Mr. Germa:** How about selling insurance?

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** Selling insurance is a good occupation, one that the British Colum-

bia government destroyed very nicely and one that I hope the present BC government will have enough encouragement to put back into the private hands to run it profitably, rather than having a \$350-million deficit after five years.

**Mr. Cassidy:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. This member was drawing \$50,000 a year from the public trough in his first couple of years here when he became a parliamentary assistant and was still on Ottawa city council.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. minister will continue.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** Mr. Speaker, I fully recognize the fact of what I was drawing; I've been through at least two elections since then, and I'm sure it has been obvious that the public has agreed I should have received that sum of money.

**Mr. Cassidy:** You wait until next time. You don't have a safe seat any more.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** There's always a next time for the hon. member too, and we'll make sure we have the right candidate that will fix him.

Interjections.

**Mr. Moffat:** A contract.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Is that right? I've heard about your right candidate, and your candidate is a bum.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** I know a certain party that had a great number of them in their organization.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Sure, the Conservatives.

**Mr. Grossman:** Makes them twice as good as the incumbent.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. minister will continue.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Are you enjoying this, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. minister will continue.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** I conclude my remarks by saying that we shall be putting forward new programmes in the next period of time to try to overcome some of the problems that are confronting smaller communities across the province.

**Mr. Philip:** More giveaways!

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** I once again say that the municipalities are making great use of the municipal industrial parks programme. I hope that within the next few weeks we will have some announcements as to the parks that are being assisted by the Province of Ontario.

The Speech from the Throne carries a lot of information that is worthy of the times in the Province of Ontario. I would strongly suggest to the members of this House that it is no time for an election in Ontario at this point, and I would ask for the members to join with us in supporting the Speech from the Throne.

**Mr. Roy:** That wasn't much of a speech.

**Hon. Mr. Bennett:** That's okay.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Windsor-Riverside has the floor.

Interjections.

**Mr. Burr:** Mr. Speaker, it is customary to begin a speech in the Throne debate by a few courtesies. The only minister, apart from the one who has just spoken, who is still in the House is the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr). I would like to say that we welcome him back as Minister of the Environment after his recycling. It is nice to have a minister back again who is going to make the polluters pay and one who is going to swim across Hamilton Bay. In fact, I understand he tried it the other day and put his arm out of commission.

**Mr. Germa:** It was in the papers.

**Mr. Burr:** Oh, that was in the papers.

**Mr. Philip:** He even tried walking across it.

**Mr. Burr:** In the eight years I have been in this Legislature I have had some opportunity to observe the Tory mind and the typical Tory attitudes. But because all individuals are different, one from another, my remarks will not refer to any individual members of this House, although individual members, past and present, may have been instrumental in creating or reinforcing some of my impressions.

Perhaps I can best begin as follows: Let us imagine that we have taken a random cross-section sample of 100 Ontario citizens, 18 years and older, 100 citizens who are doing paid work or who need paid work or who want paid work. We would except the



three large categories of homemakers or housewives, post-secondary students and those who have retired from the labour market.

Let us imagine that we could assess the employability of these 100 men and women. There would be many factors to consider in employability, such as intelligence, talent, education, training, age, experience and physical qualities, including height, weight, health and personality. It should be obvious to everyone, even to red-necked Tories—

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** There is no such thing.

**Mr. Burr:** Maybe there aren't many, but there are a few.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Not in this House.

**Mr. Burr:** Well, I have met a few.

**Mr. Bain:** There are not many Tories.

**Mr. Burr:** It should be obvious to them that in our free enterprise society roughly five per cent to seven per cent of every 100 will spend most of their lives unemployed or underemployed. Physical handicaps, mental handicaps and personality handicaps will disqualify them in the competition for employment.

It should be realized, likewise, that for every unemployed person there is probably an overemployed person or perhaps two or three overemployed persons. In Windsor, some auto workers are required to work 1,000 or more overtime hours per year. It is cheaper for the auto companies to pay overtime to fewer workers than to hire more workers and pay the fringe benefits that are required. The profit motive under which auto companies operate causes overemployment for many, while depriving able and available unemployed workers of the right to work, and forces them on welfare.

I have received complaints that hundreds of truck drivers are laid off while those kept on drive many hours beyond what is considered safe and beyond what the law actually allows. Why? It is cheaper for the companies and enables them to make more profit, but in the process it puts willing and able truck drivers on welfare.

[3:15]

In Ontario, we have finally reached the point at which we have enough well-trained nurses, enough well-trained teachers, enough well-trained social workers, enough people sufficiently trained to satisfy the various social needs of our whole society. But what happens? Because the provincial government is unwilling to tax the affluent corporations

and the most affluent citizens sufficiently to keep its budgets reasonably well balanced, we have a government-imposed restraint programme that wipes out 5,000 jobs and job opportunities for trained hospital workers of all kinds, including nurses, technicians and even administrators.

Similarly, provincial government support for education is now restricted so that local school boards are contemplating scheduling larger classes and increasing teaching loads from 30 classes a week to 35. If this happens, about 15 per cent of the secondary school teachers now working will be laid off. I know of at least two secondary school teachers and one secondary school principal who taught 50 different classes a week during the hungry Thirties—50 different classes a week, while other trained teachers were teaching none. That was in the hungry Thirties and the trend, if followed today, may see us reaching that point again in the history of Ontario.

In the private sector, the profit motive produces overemployment for some and unemployment for others. In the public sector, Tory inability or unwillingness to raise revenue from the affluent results in overwork for some and no work for others.

The Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) has travelled around Ontario disemploying 5,000 hospital workers. He has been followed, or in some cases preceded, by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) exhorting those on welfare, even those on mothers' allowances, to get out and find a job. Where? At the hospitals? How? As nurses? As teachers?

Perhaps they could start a corner grocery store, without capital of course. Perhaps they could start a restaurant, without capital of course. Actually, they can't even start a home daycare operation unless they can meet certain conditions, such as building and equipping a fenced-in playground in their back yard. "Perhaps the 16-year-old son could drive a transport," suggests the Minister of Community and Social Services. What chance has he when even high seniority drivers can get only an occasional day of driving?

My colleagues from Windsor West (Mr. Bounsall) and his predecessor, Mr. Hugh Peacock, and I myself have appealed to a succession of Tory Ministers of Labour to eliminate compulsory overtime work, to reduce the work week—in short, to share the work. Sharing the work automatically shares the wealth. It reduces the welfare roles, restores human dignity, prevents family disintegration and rectifies a host of other flaws in our present society. Yet the redneck Con-



servative, whether he is a member of this Legislature or a member of the voting public, has a simplistic view of our economic and social system. He does not realize that in the competition for jobs as a means of earning a livelihood, only 95 out of 100 can succeed in holding a job if there are only 95 jobs available.

Only government by legislation can eliminate overemployment or shorten the work week to expand those 95 jobs into 100 jobs. Only government intervention, government enterprise and government imagination can arrange full employment.

As matters stand in Tory Ontario, there will always be about five per cent who cannot find work however hard they try, or however capable they might be. By and large, these five per cent will be the least employable. They are those who are weaker, less attractive, less educated, inadequately skilled or trained, in poorer health, suffering from some mental, physical or emotional problem, or handicapped. But to our Tory friends, they are, and always will be, ne'er-do-wells who don't want to work and who are good for nothing.

The least employable for most of their lives will be the chronic unemployed for whom a whole range of community and social services must be established. If it weren't for these least employable persons the present Minister of Community and Social Services would have no ministry. In a full employment society which we in this party have always advocated all but the unemployable would find a working role. They would enjoy the satisfaction of pulling their weight, of doing useful work, of making their contribution to society. They would retain or recover their dignity.

The Conservative, however, seems to be unaware that his success in life has been attained because of his own superior employability. He continually points to individuals of his acquaintance who have failed, usually because they lack qualities which he himself possesses. If one probes, these qualities turn out to be described as willingness to work, get up and go, initiative and willingness to take a chance. Your Tory who has made a success, let us say, of a restaurant, hardware store, a barber shop or any other small business rarely seems to realize that luck also played a part in his success.

He was lucky that several other equally enterprising individuals did not decide to open in his neighbourhood two or three other restaurants, hardware stores or barber shops in competition with his. For each type of

store there is usually a definitely limited amount of business. Too many stores of any kind spoil the business for all. Only those individuals with certain qualities, which may include a certain amount of ruthlessness or just plain good luck, are able to succeed in a competitive society.

Your typical Tory does not seem to realize that in a competitive society, all too often one man's success depends upon another man's failure. In a co-operative society, the success of one is a boon for all. Consequently, your rednecked Tory develops an attitude of contempt, sometimes approaching hatred, towards those who end up at the bottom of the social and economic heap. Certainly he has no compassion.

It may be, of course, that this supercilious attitude results, not from a lack of understanding, but from a bad conscience. Perhaps your Tory appreciates fully that our economic system by its very competitive nature ordains that some should be first and others last and that some should be praised as successful and others condemned as failures.

Perhaps his constant harping on the supposed laziness and other shortcomings of those for whom social services have become essential is just a reflection of his feeling of guilt in approving and championing a system that invariably in every continent, in every country, in every province, in every city and in every community invariably produces the same results, a group of people who have been left out or perhaps frozen out, people who have been almost entirely excluded from the benefits enjoyed by the majority of the members of our competitive, so-called free enterprise society.

Last year's pre-election Tory tax concessions of over \$592 million were almost entirely for the benefit of those who needed them least. This year's pre-election restraints are almost entirely at the expense of those most in need of help, all those in ill health and all those requiring community and social services of various kinds.

The NDP is opposed to welfare abuse. In fact, we are opposed to welfare. We favour a full employment society in which there is no need for welfare except for the disabled and the unemployable. Blame for any cheating in or abuse of welfare must be borne by the Ontario Tory government that has permitted it. Blame for any cheating in or abuse of unemployment insurance must be borne by the federal Liberal government that has permitted it.

**Mr. Reid:** Nothing like individual responsibility, is there?



**Mr. Burr:** Blame for loopholes in unemployment insurance must be borne by the federal Liberals. A good example, or a bad example, was the subject of a news item in this morning's *Globe and Mail*.

**Mr. Reid:** Did you hear about the last election in British Columbia?

**Mr. Burr:** Unemployment insurance regulations, we were told in this morning's *Globe and Mail*, allow supply teachers to work a couple of days a week for a period of eight weeks and then collect as much as \$95 a week for 26 weeks. If there are weaknesses and abuses in welfare and unemployment, place the blame fairly on those who drafted the legislation and enforce, or fail to enforce, that legislation. Don't blame us.

The NDP stands ready to support any proposals for full employment which would automatically reduce welfare systems and unemployment insurance plans to a bare minimum. The Minister of Community and Social Services, during debate on supplementary estimates, said that members of this party do not believe in the work ethic. This was one of the many strange statements made in and outside this House during the week of March 15. In fact, a policeman friend of mine drew to my attention the fact that the full moon was on March 16; it may be that some of these weird statements were caused by the position of the moon.

If NDP members don't believe in the work ethic, they certainly practice it—

**Mr. Reid:** This sounds like an election speech.

**Mr. Burr:** After considerable reflection, I have been unable to think of any NDP member, supporter or MPP with whom I have had any social, economic or philosophical discussion who ever condemned the work ethic. The only Canadian politician who ever questioned the work ethic, as far as my memory serves me, is the federal leader of the Liberal Party. He is the only one I can recall ever suggesting that work might be optional or should be optional in modern society.

**Mr. Philip:** In between his vacations.

**Mr. Burr:** The UAW, both in Canada and the United States, has repeatedly called for a reduction in the work week so that the work, and therefore the wealth, could be shared. That is an ethical attitude towards work. It is because of this government's indifference that some truck drivers in Ontario

are driving inordinately excessive hours, while many truck drivers are called in once a week or so. It is because this government has not bothered to encourage the work ethic that we have many factory workers working overtime, often seven days a week, while other workers are forced into idleness and on to welfare rolls.

Admittedly, there are a few young people who seem to have little desire to work. But the blame for this should be placed on our whole society, our whole social and economic system. If you insist on placing blame somewhere, then place it on those who have been in office, both federally and at Queen's Park, for they at least have had the power and the opportunity to do something about promoting and fostering the work ethic.

It is in the very nature of the private enterprise system—what my Liberal and Tory friends call the free enterprise system, and what I call the selfish enterprise system—that some succeed and others fail. That is the way the competitive game is played. If there are to be winners, there must also be losers. Losers, especially those who lose repeatedly, become discouraged and are considered failures and, what is even more unfortunate, consider themselves failures. Very often their despair is such that they seek to escape. A few turn to crime, most turn to alcohol and, in recent years, many turn to various mood-changing drugs.

[3:30]

**Mr. Philip:** Some turn to politics.

**Mr. Burr:** Society, or at least its less sensitive members, then condemn these unfortunates for abandoning the work ethic. If you are one of these insensitive people, you are likely to join or support one of the so-called free-enterprise parties. If you understand what our competitive society does to its losers, you join or support the party that believes, not in private or selfish enterprise, but in social enterprise and in the value of co-operation rather than a competition.

It was this belief that led me during the hungry Thirties to support the formation of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. The CCF, as its name implied, was a group of people, a federation, working together, co-operating for the commonwealth or the common good. This new movement attracted support in the political field from those who were already active in social enterprises such as co-operatives and credit unions. We in the New Democratic Party and earlier in the CCF have always believed that a good society



must put the emphasis on co-operation. We believe in the superiority of social enterprise as a basis for an economically stable and just society.

Recently the leader of the Liberal Party in Ontario told the press: "The NDP amendment bears no more resemblance to the NDP than the Martian party. Lewis is trying to change his political stripes, he's trying to be a Liberal." Let us examine the NDP amendment. Our Throne Speech amendment criticized the government for its inaction in occupational health hazards, which exist largely because of the profit motive, and for its inaction on food land disappearance, which is caused largely because of the profit motive. Because of the NDP's belief in the work ethic, we criticized the government for failure to create jobs. We criticized the government for its undermining and dismantling of our social service structure because we in the NDP believe that we are our brother's keepers. We criticized the government for its disemployment of 5,000 hospital staff members, all of whom, obviously have believed and practised the work ethic. We criticized the government for failure to stimulate the building of homes because we believe that all humans should have a right to adequate shelter as well as to adequate food and clothing.

In short, our Throne Speech amendment, based on our belief in everyone's rights to practise the work ethic and on our recognition of harmful side-effects of glorifying and practising the profit ethic, was completely consistent with our party's theories and practices ever since its inception. Apparently the member for Hamilton West (Mr. S. Smith) entered this Legislature with some preconceived ideas about the New Democratic Party's philosophies, for he made this bizarre statement, quoted in the *Toronto Star* and other papers on March 9, and I repeat it: "Lewis's amendment bears no more resemblance to the NDP than to the Martian party."

What does he think the NDP philosophy is? Probably he shares the simplistic view of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) who stated in the House on March 18: "The NDP wants the government to run everything." Ever since the NDP was formed in 1961 and for many years before that in the CCF, our party spokesmen have repeatedly and consistently stated our belief in a mixed economy for Canada, partly based on private enterprise, and partly based on social enterprise. We in this party put the greater emphasis on social enterprise; the two opposing parties put the emphasis on

private enterprise. Of course, for psychological reasons, they talk about free enterprise, which has largely perished before the onslaught of monopoly enterprise. Actually, many of us in this party would like to see free enterprise still alive in certain sections of our economy.

Service station operators, for example, were at one time free-enterprisers. They bought gasoline and sold it and, by the quality of service offered to their customers, carried on as independent businessmen, each one depending for his success largely upon his own initiative. Today, however, the service station lessees are little better than wage slaves chained for 16 hours a day to their gas pumps. One friend of mine, a service station operator, estimated that he rarely made a cent for himself and his family before 7 o'clock in the evening.

**Mr. Philip:** They make less than their employees.

**Mr. Burr:** He had to stay open at night in order to buy the groceries. Service station operators, even of 20 years tenure, have had their rent raised 100 per cent in the last few months. The more successful the station becomes, the more rent is demanded by the oil company which supplies the gas and, in most cases, owns the station.

What have the two parties that champion free enterprise done for the small businessman? Precious little. Oh, yes, I believe last year, as one of the election goodies, the government restored the commission for collecting the sales tax to the small businessman.

An incidental remark, Mr. Speaker: I should like to suggest that the Legislature might function more effectively if the rules were changed to give a minority government a guarantee of a minimum term—perhaps two years; perhaps 18 months—to permit a period of stability in which members would not be in constant fear of some accident or other throwing them back into the election jungle.

I'd like to make a few remarks about the election expenses for the last election which cost the taxpayers of the province \$12 million. The Progressive Conservative provincial headquarters collected, we are told by the commission, \$1,227,000; the Liberal headquarters, \$864,000; the NDP provincial headquarters, \$112,000. In other words, the provincial headquarters of the Liberals collected almost eight times as much as the NDP provincial headquarters, and the Tories collected almost 13 times as much.

The Canadian Press dispatch in the *Star* went on to explain that of these large



amounts collected by their provincial party headquarters, the Liberal ridings and candidates received \$85,000 and the Tory ridings received \$476,000, an average of almost \$4,000 per candidate. I mention this in order to put on the record a significant difference in the funding methods of our party and of the two older parties.

In the New Democratic Party, every riding association is expected to send to our provincial headquarters in every election campaign an amount equal to 20 per cent of its own local expenditures. For example, if the Windsor-Riverside NDP spends \$9,500 on a campaign, we must send \$1,900 to support the provincial campaign conducted through our provincial headquarters.

Incidentally, this imposes on each NDP candidate and riding association a certain restraint in election spending because, in effect, we are fined \$20 by our provincial office for every \$100 we spend daily locally. If the constituency associations of the older parties had to function under our system they might show similar restraint in their spending.

I am told that the 1975 provincial election statistics have established an average expenditure for the Tory candidates of approximately \$24,000 each, for the Liberals about \$13,000, and for the NDP about \$8,000. These last three figures are from memory. If, however, they are inaccurate I am sure someone will correct me.

Some Tory candidates spent over \$50,000 to get elected; in some cases, to try to get elected. Even the \$24,000 average is far too much to spend on election campaigns. There should be a limit to the amount each candidate is allowed to spend, and \$20,000 would appear to be quite ample for any candidate.

There is one other aspect I should like to mention—no, there are two. One that has come to my attention is a development affecting various ministries, especially the Ministry of Labour. The Komoka nursing home, which is part of a chain of nursing homes in south-western Ontario, has initiated a strategy for denying health care employees the fruits of their collective bargaining.

About September, 1974, some 20 employees of the Komoka nursing home, through their union, began negotiating for a 1975 contract. After all kinds of stalling operations by management, the case went to arbitration on April 28, 1975. The award was four months in coming. On Aug. 25, 1975, an award was finally made to be implemented within 30 days.

So it took them 10 months to get their award, right? Wrong. The management ap-

pealed the arbitrator's award and it was March 4, 1976, before a judge announced that the arbitrator's decision was upheld. So there was a further period of seven months' delay since the award resulting from compulsory arbitration.

But that was not the end of it. The employees have now been told that management will appeal to a higher court. Consequently, the Komoka nursing home management is holding over \$100,000 of money that has been awarded to its employees. The employees need that money. They have negotiated for this money. They have been awarded this money, first by an arbitrator and secondly by a judge. Management, or the owners, have had two chances and both times have failed to persuade, first the arbitrator and then the judge, that they could not afford these wages that have been awarded. The Nursing Home Association is now encouraging its members to use these stalling tactics that have been developed by the Komoka nursing home.

I wish to make one point here. The legislation covering the whole health care industry must surely require review. Legislation should not allow for any health care workers an outcome such as I have outlined.

The final topic has to do with restitution rather than retribution. Just recently, on March 25 to be exact, Windsorites were shocked to read in their local newspaper that a man walking his dog had been assaulted by two young men who had just left a tavern. One of the men "struck the dog, sending it sprawling into the street." When the dog's owner "instinctively retaliated and swung at the man who had kicked the dog, he was knocked to the ground and beaten in the face." The other man "stomped him in the face with a high heel, tearing his nose from his face." The assistant Crown Attorney said that the man's nose was severed from his face and "was just hanging there when he was found." The Windsor Star reported that "a plastic surgeon spent two hours trying to piece his face together."

[3:45]

What shocked Windsorites, in addition to the description, was the sentence given the two culprits. The stomper with the high heels was given 60 days in jail, to be served in the evenings after work. The other, an unemployed man, was sentenced to 30 days in jail.

These sentences should be considered from three viewpoints: the victim's, the taxpayers' and the offenders'.

First, the victim's: As far as one can tell from the newspaper accounts, the victim gets not even an apology for his nightmarish ex-



perience. He may get some compensation under the Act which deals with victims of crime. Even so, the whole incident can never be better than a traumatic episode for him.

Second, the taxpayers': We taxpayers have to pay the medical, surgical, ambulance and hospital costs through OHIP. We have to pay the cost of the trial. If the victim is awarded some compensation as the victim of a violent crime, we taxpayers will foot the bill again. We must pay heavily, too, for the period of incarceration of these two men.

Third, the culprits': They will spend time in jail. With good behaviour, one will spend 21 days, the other 42 nights. Will their incarceration make them better citizens or worse? Or will it have no effect whatever?

Could there have been a better sentence? It is my belief that punishment should fit not only the crime but also the criminal; that restitution rather than retribution should be the aim of justice; and that there should be repentance and reform on the part of the offenders rather than a fruitless vindictiveness on the part of society.

Sentences in England often require that a culprit perform some kind of personal service or make some kind of financial restitution to the victim. Sometimes an offender is required to perform some service to the community. Judges in England are being imaginative and innovative. When will Ontario start to follow suit?

Not knowing what skills or talents these two culprits possess, and what needs this victim may have, it's impossible for me to suggest what form of restitution the judge could have called for, except the obvious financial kind.

Judges, aided as they are by a pre-sentence report, should be able to come up with innovative restitution sentences in some of the cases that come before them—and they should be encouraged to do so.

What made this mild sentence for such a brutal crime seem to me so inadequate was another news item of a few days before. A Toronto woman was convicted of perpetrating a welfare fraud. This defrauding had taken place between 1966 and 1973, a period of about seven years, during which she had received \$18,600 in provincial assistance for herself and three children. The sum of \$18,600 may seem an inadequate amount for a family of four stretched out over seven years. Actually, it's about \$2,650 a year or \$51 a week.

This woman defrauded this province of almost an additional \$10,600 during this period, a sum amounting to about \$1,500

a year or \$30 a week. For this crime she was sentenced to a jail term not to exceed six months. The defence counsel was quoted in the paper as saying: "There is nothing here to suggest that the funds were used except for the support of herself and the three children."

I have forgotten now how much a certain famous Toronto sportsman defrauded the government some two or three years ago in income tax, and I have forgotten how long a sentence he served as a result but I am sure that it was much more than \$10,000 over seven years. I'm sure that the motive was greed on his part; not, as in this woman's case, need. By comparison, the well-known sportsman got off much more easily than this woman who struggled along on \$81 a week—

**Mr. Nixon:** Are you talking about Harold Ballard?

**Mr. Moffatt:** How did you guess that? You did it, Bob; we didn't think you would.

**Mr. Burr:** —an amount that included her ill-gotten gains. Compare these two sentences for these two crimes: The woman got six months in jail for defrauding an impersonal victim, the government, in order to support her three children—an action we can all understand, even though we may not be able to condone it. The two young men were given the equivalent of one month each for a senseless, brutal crime against an innocent, unsuspecting victim which no one can understand and no one can forgive.

The gist of my remarks is that there should be a review of the types of sentences being handed out in Ontario today. They should be more in keeping with the seriousness of the crime. There are thefts from individuals and there are thefts from the public treasury; a difference that almost everybody recognizes. There are thefts with violence and thefts without violence; an important difference. There are thefts because of need and there are thefts because of greed.

There are offences in which no other individual is actually harmed; for example, exceeding the speed limit. And there are offences in which lives may be damaged or even ended; for example, by an impaired driver. There are offences that cause the offender such shame that he will never offend again. The same offence may be committed by another individual who feels or betrays no remorse whatsoever. Yet sentences too often are not appropriate for the offence or the offender.

Recently, a Detroiter had occasion to drive to New York city and felt that he needed to



carry a pistol under the driver's seat. After his return to Detroit he forgot all about the gun and crossed into Windsor. The custom officials found the gun and although the man appeared to be a law-abiding citizen, the Windsor judge sentenced him to two weeks in jail.

One judge sentences a man to 30 days for a brutal assault on a complete stranger. Another judge sentences a visitor from Detroit to 14 days because he inadvertently broke one of our laws. It is time for judges to hold a review or a workshop and for the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) to formulate a few guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to speak once more in the Throne Speech debate. I think I would like to close by expressing my regret that the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) is not with us these days and to pass onto him, through Hansard, the wishes of those of us in this party for his speedy recovery and return.

**Mr. Cunningham:** As the member for Wentworth North and a new member to the Ontario Legislature I am particularly pleased to be able to participate in the debate on the Speech from the Throne in this our third session of our 30th Parliament.

Initially, I had intended to devote most of my time to discussing a number of issues which tend to affect us all in Ontario. I would say, as one of the younger members of this Legislature, that I particularly enjoy the privilege of being able to represent my constituency in this Legislature. I said during the course of the last election that I regarded public service to be a privilege in trust, and I must say I certainly appreciate this privilege and I hope I will always be able to honour that trust.

At this time I would like to speak on a number of issues. In the time I have, I would spend the concluding remarks on the issue of the Chedoke Hospital in Hamilton. At the time of my original preparation of my speech I was not, in fact, aware that Chedoke Hospital in Hamilton was to bear the brunt of health restraint in Hamilton. With this in mind, I intend to devote most of my remarks to this subject.

Before I move to that discussion, though, I would like to express my concern through you, Mr. Speaker, about a number of subjects I am concerned about, again not only as the representative for Wentworth North, but also as a member of the Ontario Legislature charged with the responsibility for directing the future of Ontario.

During the last election, the Liberal Party was criticized on many occasions concerning our stand about the need in Ontario to return to basics in our educational system. On many occasions our policy was simply interpreted to be a return to the three Rs.

In my brief experience as a member it has become apparent to me that while the children of Ontario are becoming increasingly well versed in the more esoteric aspects of education, they are failing to grasp the fundamental principles of reading, writing and mathematics. Such an approach to education many may conclude to be, in fact, simplistic. I myself am inclined to think that children were better educated, at least in the areas of reading and writing, some 20 and 30 years ago.

There are those who would generalize, I think in a rather fallacious way, that reading, writing and mathematics are not as important in today's society as they were some years ago. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, as one who has recently left that system of education that, in fact, the demands that are being placed upon our children today are even greater than they were in the past.

I would like at this time to put forward just a few of the conclusions reached by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in its report on basic educational skills, which was compiled in June, 1975. They concluded that the educational system in Canada has changed drastically, and in surprisingly similar ways across Canada, in the last five or 10 years. To this end, I guess the Province of Ontario is not alone. Most of the respondents to the survey conducted by the Chamber of Commerce indicated that many students do lack a proficiency in the basic skills and that there is, in fact, a very serious need to upgrade teaching of basic skills; that is to say, reading, writing and mathematics. There is also a tremendous need for measurement, so that the student knows, in fact, where he or she is, where he or she has to improve, and what is to be expected.

Clearly, the responsibility for not only the standard of education, but also the measurement of that standard, rests with the provincial Ministry of Education. It was not that long ago that we had a provincial standard of education across this province. This failure to enact solid standards among our high school students has caused some grave concern among our universities and community colleges. In a survey taken among universities, the reaction to the statement that high school students are, in fact, lacking in basic skills, was that 14 of 21 respondents



felt that, in fact, the graduates were lacking in basic skills. At the community college level, 18 of 25 respondents felt that high school students were lacking in basic skills.

Times change, and I am sure that everybody in the House recognizes that the time has come that we must require our students to be better based and more informed if these students are going to be able to meet the stringent demands that I know will be placed upon them in the future.

On Dec. 1, 1975, I had occasion to speak in this House on the debate that related to the Toronto teachers' strike. At that time, I indicated that I felt a real need for an Anti-Inflation Board here in Ontario, not only to interpret things like teachers' strikes, but also all the matters related to public servants of Ontario, and anything related to the people of Ontario as designated by the BNA Act to be within our jurisdictional control.

At that time, it was apparent to me that there was a very serious reluctance on the part of the government of Ontario to enact an Anti-Inflation Board of our own, as provided to us as an option given by the federal government. What is becoming increasingly more apparent to me is the continuing need for an Anti-Inflation Board here in Ontario, to interpret not only the federal legislation, but also to make sure that it is implemented in the fairest and most equitable possible fashion.

It is increasingly certain the Province of Ontario is not going to be exempt from the number of disputes that result in the labour relations field.

[4:00]

Perhaps nothing illustrates this labour problem so much in Ontario as the failure and the sense of failure that we all experienced in the Metro Toronto teachers' strike. Possibly, at this time, we in the Ontario Legislature should address ourselves to the need to find better and more efficient methods of settling our labour disputes. To this end, I would recommend that the Province of Ontario seriously take a look at the establishment of a labour court in Ontario. While I recognize that there would be some expense involved in this, I think the expense would be far outweighed by the benefits that we would all enjoy as a result of the increased productivity and, of course, the lack of labour strife that would result from such a system.

Integral to such a system, I think, should be some serious consideration about the possibility of adopting what is recognized to be a system called final-offer selection, where labour and management can work together,

or where the Province of Ontario might assume a leadership role in seeing that the various negotiating parties reach a settlement much faster than we are accustomed to seeing right now.

Certainly, the incidence of industrial conflict has been one of the major reasons for Ontario losing its competitive position, not only within Canada but within the international market system. To this end, Ontario again can be a leader. We can rely not only on the material resources that we all know to exist in the Province of Ontario but, more specifically, on the human resources—the kind of resources that I fear we are in a position of losing, should industrial conflicts continue to occur in the way that they have.

I would like to indicate very briefly my concern about the direction that the Province of Ontario is giving to the municipalities of Ontario. As indicated, the increase in provincial funds that will be transferred to the municipal sector will be eight per cent over the amount transferred last year. As I'm sure every member in the House is aware, this is a considerable reduction from previous years.

The municipalities and school boards of Ontario possibly have been inclined to spend beyond their means in the past but, more often than not, they have been extremely responsible to local needs and wishes and, of course, they have been responsible for keeping municipal taxation at a rather low level.

Integral to their taxation policies and, of course, to the provision of municipal services and local needs, is the need for long-term planning. To this end, I must express my disappointment that the various municipalities of Ontario are required to live on a year-to-year basis. That is to say, the municipalities of Ontario are never really aware of what the future may hold for them.

In November last year, the report of the special review programme was tabled by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario. I'm sure that each and every member of the Legislature welcomed the need for restraint in the Province of Ontario. There can be no doubt that for so many years we have spent beyond our means.

The Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), in his budget last year, stated that inflation was the single most serious problem facing the province today. He further stated that government spending was the primary cause of that inflation. Then he tabled his fifth successive record-breaking deficit budget of \$1.6 billion. I would be less than candid if I did not say that this enormous debt that we have in this province worries me seriously. In the last five years, this debt has accumulated to an even



greater extent, giving us the largest total debt of any province in Canada and one of the highest per capita debts. In the same period of time, Ontario's growth has deteriorated to the point that our gross provincial product is in rather poor shape.

If this trend continues, we could lose our preferential credit rating in the international money market and, in fact, lose that triple-A rating that we have enjoyed in the past, thereby increasing our interest costs even further. This, I can assure you, would only leave a litany of decay for our children.

I am sure that no one is surprised to hear that Ontario at this time has the highest total debt of any province in Canada. By debt, I mean all the guaranteed debt and direct debt for which we in the Province of Ontario are responsible, including foreign and domestic credit and provincial treasury bills. This debt has grown from \$6.719 billion in 1970 to more than \$11 billion in 1974. This represents the highest growth, in percentage terms, of any province in Canada with the exception of Newfoundland, which as you know is governed by a Conservative government. In short, Ontario is on the verge of destroying what competitive edge we have enjoyed in the past.

We now have 38.4 per cent of the total provincial debt in Canada, a growth from 33.7 per cent in 1970. In that same period of time, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan, none of which is ruled by a Conservative government, have decreased their share of debt.

Between the years 1969 and 1974, the debt in Ontario increased 95.9 per cent and there is no doubt in my mind that if this trend continues unchecked we will have a very serious problem. What has the Premier's (Mr. Davis) solution been to funding these deficits and interest payments? It's been to use the taxpayers' pension fund and through various capital markets. I would say to members this is excessively inflationary.

For instance, in this last year we will be required to borrow \$750 million from the Canada Pension Plan; \$128 million from the Ontario Municipal Employees' Retirement System; \$228 million from the Teachers' Superannuation Fund. In short, this \$1,106,000,000 of pension funds will be used to finance 63 per cent of Ontario's deficit. The interest on the \$4.4 billion borrowed from the Canada Pension Plan alone amounts to somewhere in the area of \$340 million.

It is no surprise that the Ontario Provincial Auditor's report of 1975 relates one very sad story as far as our borrowing practices are concerned and that is the \$28 million loan

received by the Ontario government from West Germany back in 1969. The re-evaluation of the German mark ended up costing the people of Ontario \$37.5 million in total when we paid it off last year. In other words, there was a \$9.5 million loss on the \$28 million loan. That, in short, has been part of the approach of the Ontario government as it relates to the fiscal administration of this province.

Certainly, I know the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) of this province would tend to rationalize such deficits over the years as methods of stimulating employment and maintaining the standard of living that we in Ontario have come to expect. But I would submit that we are now, in Ontario, tied up in so many wasteful procedures, overlapping jurisdictions, unnecessary advertising programmes; programmes based on growth for growth's sake—such as Hydro—and a myriad of various bureaucracies which we all know to exist. I guess this brings me to a discussion of the waste of public funds.

The government of Ontario has been excessively centralized in Queen's Park. This centralization perhaps is indicative of the philosophy held by the Premier himself. It is a kind of centralization which not only encourages waste and abuse of public funds but also further insulates the people of Ontario from their government.

In my perception, the bureaucracy we have at Queen's Park seems to be self-perpetuating. Max Henderson's study of regional government indicated that the excessively high growth of upper tier staff at the regional government level has not spawned a corresponding decrease in the lower tier staff level.

Between the years 1970 and 1974, the municipal staffs in regional government grew at a rate more than triple that of the staffs of local government. It is the costs that relate to this expansion of staff in the area of municipal and regional government that is causing the excessive rate of municipal taxation which municipalities are going to experience not only this year but in the years that follow unless we take some drastic action now. Certainly, the object of the exercise with regional government was to make local government more efficient. It's a rather sad commentary that in almost every region in the Province of Ontario taxes have increased and services have decreased. Certainly, Wentworth North is no exception.

I suppose one of the reasons hospitals have to be shut down and hospital budgets have to be cut back and, of course, com-



munity and social service budgets have to be cut back, is the waste that has taken place, especially at Queen's Park in the last 10 years. No one should be inclined to forget the cynical approach by this government prior to the last election, with the introduction of the first-time home buyer's grant; the drop in sales tax from seven to five per cent; and the cancellation of sales tax on new cars.

Clearly, it was bait to get voters in the various constituencies to vote Conservative. From my point of view, it did not work and we're all paying for those election goodies now.

Highway construction in the Province of Ontario has declined but the government's construction staff has not been cut. Enrolment continues to decline in Ontario's elementary and secondary schools yet there are more people working in the Ministry of Education and for the school boards than ever before.

Let me speak briefly about the subject of Wintario. The Province of Ontario is realizing millions and millions of dollars in Wintario revenue. Where are we directing these funds? To ethnic dance costumes; trips for senior hockey teams abroad; goalie pads; soccer balls—so many things that I know the people of Ontario were inclined to support in their own communities, quite sincerely, long before the advent of Wintario.

What is the cost of administering this Wintario programme? I would suggest that 20 per cent of all the money we take in is allocated for administration alone. I would compare that to the Canadian Cancer Society, which budgets somewhere between three and four per cent for the administration of their budget.

I think the time has come for the government seriously to consider directing Wintario revenues to the general revenue fund; more specifically, possibly for hospital programmes so that in fact hospitals would not have to be shut down in communities such as Chesley, Durham, Clinton, Goderich and Paris and 187 beds at Chedoke Hospital in Hamilton.

One of the fundamental approaches to the election by the Progressive Conservative Party in that past has been what I would refer to as a bait and switch approach. That is to say they tend to bait each constituency across the Province of Ontario with some form of specific election goodie and then after the election they tend to switch their point of view.

Only yesterday I was actually at the point that I was appalled to hear the member for

Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) suggest in this House that a \$10-million court house was built in his riding because that riding was represented by a Progressive Conservative. I really was told that these kind of things occurred but I really didn't think that anybody in the government party would actually admit to it.

**Mr. Nixon:** They boast about it.

**Mr. Good:** And brag about it.

**Mr. Cunningham:** He actually did boast about it. I would like very briefly to share with you just a few of the election promises that I understand were made during the course of the last election.

**Mr. Mancini:** Where is the member for Scarborough Centre?

**Mr. Cunningham:** On Aug. 15 the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson) announced a \$3-million loan in Sarnia for the Ontario Housing Action Programme. It was odd that it was done during the middle of the election. On Aug. 11 the Minister of Housing (Mr. Irvine) announced \$50 million in loans to various developers in Scarborough. The then Minister of the Environment (Mr. W. Newman) and the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) announced on Sept. 3 that \$660,000 would be spent in Timagami for a sewage system.

**Mr. Nixon:** They were buying votes with the people's own money. There won't be enough money next time.

**Mr. Cunningham:** In the area of health, the Premier (Mr. Davis) on Aug. 17 announced that unspecified millions would be spent in Chapleau on hospital beds.

Interjections.

**Mr. Cunningham:** On Aug. 26 unspecified millions were announced, again by the Premier, for a Toronto-centred highway programme. On Sept. 3, \$143,000 was promised by the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) for health research grants; again during the course of the election.

**Mr. Nixon:** He was not talking about hospital closings then.

**Mr. Cunningham:** The member for Oxford (Mr. Parrott) announced an unspecified amount—certainly not cheap, I would think—on Sept. 5 for a hospital expansion in Tillsonburg.

**Mr. Nixon:** He thought he was buying a cage.



**Mr. Cunningham:** Another unspecified amount was announced by the Premier himself on Sept. 6—getting close to election day—for the Institute of Occupational Health and \$25 million to \$32 million was announced by the then Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Rhodes) for 80 double-decker GO coaches.

**Mr. Nixon:** GO coaches?

**Mr. Cunningham:** That was on Aug. 11. Mr. Lastman, who wasn't even in the government, had the temerity to make an announcement that \$45,000 would be spent for buses for the handicapped in North York.

The then Minister of Transportation and Communications on Sept. 4 indicated in an announcement that he would spend \$20 million to continue to pave Highway 404.

Well this goes on, Mr. Speaker. I guess that is probably representative of the approach the government has held, at least in the past, with regard to the voters of Ontario. Possibly that is one of the reasons we have to shut down hospitals across the Province of Ontario.

As I indicated earlier in my speech, I would like to address myself to the problem of the closing of the Chedoke Hospital, which was announced on May 23—187 acute beds—in a letter from the deputy Minister of Health to the chairman of the health council in Hamilton.

It was interesting for me to partake in a CHCH-TV programme on Sunday and to hear the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) indicate to us he had known this decision was going to take place some three weeks before the announced date.

[4:15]

**Mr. Nixon:** It came to him in a vision.

**Mr. Cunningham:** In the letter it was indicated to us that a decision would have to be made by April 7 and that it would be implemented by April 9. In the time that has transpired we have, of course, been able to meet with the acting Minister of Health (Hon. B. Stephenson) and we have, I hope, impression upon her the need to restudy the decision to close 187 beds at the Chedoke Hospital.

Very briefly, I would like to speak about the economic ramifications of this closure as it would affect the people who work at that hospital. In the area of nursing services, 200 people would be out of work; housekeeping services, 25 people; dietary services, another

25; plant maintenance, 20; laboratory, 60; radiology, 25; clerical, 25; miscellaneous, 20.

What are the economic considerations? What is the total net economic effect of the abandonment of \$10 million in plant investment considered in the light of the money that's already been spent on that facility?

This is probably indicative of the planning problem that we have in the Province of Ontario as it would relate to health care facilities, in as much as we have spent in the last two years over \$2 million on that Chedoke facility, making it one of the most advanced, not only in the Hamilton area but probably in Ontario. Where are these people going to work? This was the question raised by the member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans) only yesterday, and I think it was a very fair question. I would suggest that, in fact, there will be no jobs available for these people should this happen.

From the point of view of someone who has lived in the Hamilton-Wentworth area all my life, I see that this decision to close 187 beds at Chedoke possibly is a rationalization for a mistake made some years ago, and that is the creation of probably what is one of the biggest white elephants in the history of our health care programme, that being McMaster Medical Centre. Over \$100 million was spent on that centre and it is yet to be fully opened. The government, further, would have us build a \$25 million hospital, revamp the Hamilton General.

The problem of the present government of Ontario is that there is obviously some serious confusion at Queen's Park about the geography of the city of Hamilton. We have a natural barrier that affects transportation in that city, it's known as Hamilton Mountain, sometimes referred to as the island of sanity. During peak traffic periods, access from and to the mountain is very difficult and very crowded. With the closure of this hospital, many people who require emergency treatment will be caught up in these rush hours on their way to St. Joseph's, the Hamilton General Hospital and, of course, the McMaster Medical Centre.

Further to this argument of keeping this hospital open, I would suggest that the only area in the Hamilton-Wentworth region where growth can take place is in the southern direction; that being in the constituencies of Wentworth and Wentworth North. The growth pattern in that area would indicate that the population increases somewhere between 18 and 19 per cent a year. I would think that trend will continue. It seems odd to me that we would close the hospital right



now, ostensibly close it by closing 187 acute treatment beds, when we will probably, as a result of the pressures of the population increasing, be required to open it a year or two from now.

On April 5, we in the Liberal Party are going to have to face our responsibility, not only to our individual constituents but also to the people of Ontario as a whole. From my point of view, I will reluctantly be supporting this government; and I say that quite sincerely, reluctantly. I'm afraid all too often that we are perceived, in fact, to be in a position of having to prop this government up.

I would like to say to you, Mr. Speaker, and through you hopefully to the Premier of Ontario, that the time has come for him to recognize his responsibilities to the people of Ontario. In the last election, some 65 per cent of the people of Ontario did not, in fact, vote for him or his party. To that end I would suggest that he recognize the democratic process and allow us the opportunity of making minority government work.

I know that many of us, in quite a non-partisan fashion, would like to see this government accomplish some things and that we would in fact like to represent the views put to us by our various constituencies. To this end, I can say quite sincerely that I doubt if the Progressive Conservative government has been inclined to meet us half-way. In fact, I would be inclined to say it hasn't met us one-eighth of the way in the last six months.

Quite sincerely, the Premier has a responsibility in that regard and I'm going to find it very difficult to continue to support this government in the future should he not be inclined to recognize that responsibility.

Thank you very much.

**Mr. Williams:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the speech by the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and to highlight the main features of that presentation as I see them, the ones that concern me and, I believe, are representative of the concerns of constituents in Oriole riding.

The main theme in the Speech from the Throne is enunciated in the initial observation:

"This Legislature is called into session at a time of optimism about Ontario's ability to maintain the quality of life of its citizens and a time of careful evaluation of the opportunities open to the province."

From this basic statement unfolds the whole theme of what the major concerns and priorities of this government should be in this the third session of the 30th Parliament of Ontario.

The Throne Speech makes it crystal clear that a careful evaluation of the opportunities open to the province is related to a programme of fiscal restraint and selective priorities in provision of government service. This government is prepared to take the initiative and to give the leadership necessary to confer real meaning to a programme of economic belt-tightening. It is not politically an easy programme to initiate, let alone to pursue. However, it must be done if the opportunities open to the province are to be realized.

The mood of the people certainly reflects support for a programme of economic restraint, because citizens everywhere have experienced the undermining effects of inflation. The people realize that they, individually and alone, cannot slow or stop inflation; nor, in fact, can any one government, whether provincial or federal, when the malady is international in scope. Our citizens realize they must turn to the collective action of governments everywhere as the only effective means of checking inflation.

It is for this reason the government of Ontario has not hesitated to engage itself in a two-pronged attack on the economic ills of the country as they affect the citizens of the Province of Ontario. The government acknowledges and accepts the realities of the devastating effects of world-wide inflation and the absolute necessity of a national effort to improve the economic and working conditions of Canadians everywhere. Hence, this government's initiative in joining in partnership with the federal government to combat inflation on a broad, national base.

As the most heavily industrialized province in Canada, it is imperative that Ontario participate in such a national programme; otherwise there cannot realistically be even the base for establishment of such a programme.

This does not mean that this government totally agrees with the duration of the federal programme, nor with its methods of implementation. In fact, the Throne Speech makes it quite clear that continuing discussions are being held with the federal authorities relating to appeal procedures and the general performance of the federal Anti-Inflation Board.

While this government has made an unprecedented move by entering into a contractual agreement to work co-operatively



with the federal government to provide the relief from the ravages of inflation that is being asked by the people of Ontario, at the same time this government is embarking on its own domestic programme of fiscal restraint and modification of government programmes.

As stated in the Throne Speech, "Profit restrictions and wage limitations imposed on the public should be reflected in similar limitations on government spending at all levels."

For some period of time, economists here and abroad, analysts and the public at large have been saying that government spending at all levels is a major cause of inflation. The economic well-being of a country cannot long endure a situation where government spending, and spending in the private sector, exceed the rate of growth in the gross national product. This government is not only willing to acknowledge this stark fact of life, it is prepared to take specific action to counteract its previous participating role in excessive spending and expansion of programmes in the public sector.

Since the inception of our government restraint programme, wherever I have gone to speak with concerned citizens about our new course of action, without exception there has been wholehearted support and endorsement of the principle of economic restraint. While additional funds will be made available, to offset the increased cost of the provision of essential government services, the increases will be far less than received and expected by the various ministries in the past few years. However, the real test lies in the willingness of the public to endure and accept the practical and very tangible consequences of such a programme.

I have stated on a number of occasions, at public meetings, that while the public seem to be in total agreement with the principles of the programme, we then must be willing to do without new or expanded government services, bearing in mind that some citizens will be affected in a very personal way. Nowhere is this fact of life more relevant than in the health and social services fields, which together absorb in excess of 35 per cent of the provincial budget. These are services that are heavily personnel-oriented, whether within government, as an agency of government or in allied fields.

However, the record must be set straight for those who allege that the government has chosen to single out these particular ministries as sacrificial lambs: This is not so. Restraint is being applied across the board

so that the overall increase in government spending in the coming fiscal year, 1976-1977, will not exceed 10 per cent. However, limited percentage increases will differ from ministry to ministry, bearing in mind the percentage relationship of each ministry's budget to the total budget and bearing in mind the varying degrees of percentage increase of budget in preceding years in some ministries as compared to others.

[4:30]

For instance, in the past three years the health budget has increased from nearly \$2.1 billion in 1973-1974, representing a cost of \$263 for every man, woman and child in this province, to nearly \$2.6 billion or \$319 for every man, woman and child in Ontario in 1974-1975, to today's approximately \$3 billion health budget, representing a cost of \$364 for every man, woman and child in Ontario. In a three-year period that is an increase in the health field budget of \$900 million.

**Mr. Godfrey:** But a decreased percentage of the GNP.

**Mr. Williams:** The blunt fact is that revenues of the province have been growing at the rate of 12.6 per cent annually while expenditures have been growing at an average of 14.5 per cent each year thereby creating a fiscal gap that cannot at the very least be permitted to widen.

**Mr. Good:** Whose fault is that? That is your fault.

**Mr. Williams:** These observations concerning the two ministries are simply illustrative of the basic problem. However, lest I be accused of being partisan in stressing not only the determination but the need of the Conservative government to confront the most serious and real challenge in recent times to the stability and well-being of Ontario and its citizens, I will quote the sobering observations on March 23 by the noted Globe and Mail financial analyst, Ronald Anderson, when he summarized the fight against inflation in the following terms:

The fight against inflation has not been helped by the spending and taxation policies of government. The Bank of Canada observes that fiscal policy was strongly expansionary in 1975 at both the federal and the provincial-municipal level. On a national accounts basis, the government sector moved from a surplus of \$2 billion in 1974 to a deficit of \$4 billion in 1975, a swing of \$6 billion.



Such a fiscal performance is hardly consistent with a return to price stability, even with a wage and price control programme in place.

And Mr. Anderson continues:

Nor is the stubborn refusal of labour to moderate wage demands realistic in the circumstances in which Canada now finds itself. Average life-of-contract wage settlements advanced from less than 10 per cent in 1973, to 14 per cent in 1974, and to almost 17 per cent in 1975. Output per person employed has declined since late 1973 and still is not improving, while productivity is beginning to show significant improvement in the United States.

The Bank of Canada concludes that it is of fundamental importance that the country gear down the rate of increase in costs and prices, not simply as a matter of international competitiveness but as a condition for economic, social and political stability.

While the Throne Speech sounds a note of optimism about Ontario's ability to maintain the quality of life of its citizens, largely in the context of realization through exercise of appropriate economic restraint, I read into the speech a broader concern for preservation of a quality of life that extends beyond concern for economic well-being and sharing in the material benefits of a productive society.

Our government must show concern for its citizens in the broader context of the cultural, social and moral wealth and well being of our society. The curing of economic ills is of immense importance. However, the re-ordering of priorities, as called for in the Throne Speech, must surely extend into every sector of our society if we are to maintain a quality of life that has been attained through recognition of and respect for the freedom of the individual, whose strength of character and individuality has evolved out of a politically democratic and morally Judeo-Christian principle. I might point out here—

**Mr. Lawlor:** It is what you call greed with religion.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** The last refuge of a scoundrel.

**Mr. Williams:** I might point out that this same type of ridicule was heaped by the member—and I'm sorry he's not here today—for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) last evening on a member of the House, when he also ridiculed the fact that that member of the House, as a professed, practising Christian, somehow had assurance of re-election of the Conserva-

tive Party at hand. I do not know the hon. member's personal beliefs—whether he is one who has religious convictions in the Hebrew, Christian, Buddhist or Moslem faith, or perhaps he's agnostic or an atheist. The fact of the matter is that I respect that member's personal beliefs whatever they may be, and I don't think that I would see the need to ridicule the beliefs of another member of this House. I suggest that at the very least his remarks last evening were a poor reflection on his own judgement.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Sanctimonious claptrap.

**Mr. Lawlor:** Far more important that he believes in free enterprise.

**Mr. Angus:** That is a religion unto itself.

**Mr. Williams:** More notably in this past decade than at any other time in this century, we have seen the very tenets that sustain our quality of life challenged both by those who have a vision of a new world and by the dissidents. Some see the need for change within the social order, others find the social order as founded on the principles which I have cited to be unacceptable. The ability of many of the more extreme minority factions to shake these foundations is not attributable to their offering positive alternatives to these precepts, but to their often open defiance of law and order, which has earned them unwarranted amounts of publicity but little more.

In fact, the persons who are most often influenced by such behaviour or actions are we, the elected representatives, who as legislators are too often too quick to respond to such pressure tactics without necessarily assessing the real worth or impact of the change sought in relation to the extent to which society as a whole is, in fact, asking for change. In order to remove the pressure tactics and the attendant publicity that this type of strategy generates, elected officials will all too often tend to offer some form of compromising legislation that will emasculate laws governing social order and behaviour, notwithstanding the fact that said laws have proved to be so fundamentally sound as not only to have stood the test of time but also to have endured more than one social evolution.

Last evening, the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) directed a great part of his response to the Throne Speech to the current social problem that is confronting this society related to the use of alcohol and the lower age of majority. I think it is well agreed—or certainly it was in 1969 and 1970—that it seemed to be the "in" thing to



give people more responsibility, greater legal rights and greater freedoms at a younger age. As was stated by the hon. member, he supported, as I believe all parties did at that time, the enactment of the legislation that reduced the legal age of majority.

As a consequence of that action—and I pose the question—who in fact was asking for these changes? Was the public pounding at the doors of the Legislature, demanding that the legal age of majority be reduced? Or was this a feeling, an intangible feeling of the legislators of that day, that this had to be done to show the public out there that we were sensitive to new and changing social values and warm and responsive to the idea of greater freedom of the individual at a less mature age?

**Mr. Samis:** Are you going to raise the voting age?

**Mr. Williams:** In fact, it appears—again, I think this was acknowledged by the hon. member in his comments last evening—that that enactment alone perhaps was done a little too hastily, upon reflection of what has occurred. It now appears that new types of social stresses have arisen to replace the social stresses, imagined or real, that existed when this legislation was brought into force. I think it is very difficult in the family unit, for a now mature legal adult who is still living under the umbrella of the homestead, to feel that he or she has to live in a protective environment, even though, for all intents and purposes, that person is still not economically able to go out into the world on his or her own to establish his own home or living accommodation apart from home. That person has been given responsibilities that give him or her the opportunity to be independent of the family and yet so heavily influenced in living under the influence of that family.

This indeed has created new social stresses, because the parents realize that they have to do less in the way of giving direction to their children, knowing now that they are legal adults, and the children perhaps feel more resentful of the fact that they still have to live at home as legal adults and continue to take some direction from their parents. The fact that this legal condition has been established has perhaps emphasized that stress; perhaps that stress has existed for all time, but the legislation has only emphasized the problem.

[4:45]

A considerable amount of time was spent, as I say, by the hon. member for Brant-

Oxford-Norfolk, offering what he felt would have to be the necessary solutions to the problem; and he acknowledged that they are not to be easily found. But I was somewhat concerned by the fact that he did indicate that he was still not convinced that the change of legal age, as far as the legal right to use alcoholic beverages was concerned, was the main contributing factor to this new social problem.

Instead, the member seemed to suggest that the real answer was to embark upon a new education programme. I think certainly that is one aspect of the problem—one of the ways of attacking the problem, I should say—and that more credit, I think he said, should be given to young adults for their maturity and their ability to use good judgement in the use of alcohol; and that what really is the problem is not the consideration of changing the legal age back to where it was or increasing it from what it is in any event, but rather the blame must fall on advertising and on lack of education.

I suggest that these are only dealing with the problem in a more peripheral manner. He had stated he did not believe that there was a ripple effect taking place—that because the age was lowered to 18, therefore it was a contributing factor to having people at a younger age make use of alcohol.

Yet I find it distressing, when I go into a restaurant in my riding at noon hour to have lunch, to find that the majority of the patrons in that restaurant are from the local high school, enjoying a leisurely lunch and two or three beers before they go back to class. It's not because they are necessarily abusing that right and privilege but because it exemplifies the nature of the problem. It is becoming part of the way of life in high schools as was referred to last evening by my associate, the member for Scarborough Centre.

I believe we still do have to come to the real root cause of the problem. It surely must rest in liberalizing those laws which have given greater responsibilities, socially and legally, to the people in our society.

The vehicle of banning liquor advertising is one that's been used in other countries and has had little pronounced beneficial effect. I think next to France, we have Russia which, in my understanding, permits no such type of advertising yet it has the second highest incidence of alcoholism of any country in the world.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Must be a socialist malaise.

**Mr. Williams:** I would agree with the suggestions made that there may be justification for greater control over the advertising of alcohol in the newspapers and magazines.

**Mr. Nixon:** I will bet within five years, it is abolished, somehow, right across the whole country.

**Mr. Williams:** If the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk suggests that the cure to the problem is to ban advertising, then I suggest—

**Mr. Good:** He didn't say that.

**Mr. Samis:** Did he say that?

**Mr. Williams:** —that is far from the appropriate solution to the problem and will not prove to be an effective means of bringing some control to the situation.

I suppose we could equate that situation to the one dealing with the seatbelt legislation that was brought in. You could say, "Don't impose seatbelt legislation; educate the people to the use of seatbelts." And we found out what happened in that situation.

**Mr. Nixon:** They were very intelligent, the people who wrote that.

**Mr. Williams:** The public did not respond in great numbers to that advertising campaign so they were legislated.

**Mr. Godfrey:** And the same thing with liquor.

**Mr. Williams:** On the other hand, it's being suggested not to legislate an age control over the use of alcohol but to go to the supposed root cause of the problem, to the advertising people.

**Mr. Good:** Nobody said that.

**Mr. Williams:** I suppose in the same way with regard to the use of seatbelts one could say for those who oppose the use of seatbelts go to the advertising media and ban advertising of high-powered automobiles so that the new young adult generation won't go out and buy a new car, and introduce new highway legislation that will reduce the speed limit for the new young adults with their new cars that they bought because of high-pressure advertising so they will not go out and kill themselves. You can say, "Educate the people to use their seatbelts but don't impose it upon them because it's taking away from them a personal freedom." That's the same logic one can apply to this about the drinking age.

**Mr. Nixon:** An interesting parallel but not quite the same.

**Mr. Williams:** Don't increase the age level because you're taking away a personal right. Get to the advertisers—the big, bad media people who are promoting the product. I suggest to you these will help but they won't solve the problem.

Change, where improvement can be the end result, is not only desirable but often necessary. However, change for the sake of change only is usually based on frivolous, if not vexatious reasons rather than because of some deep, social need or belief. A desire for change in social attitudes or conditions need not necessarily be equated with a demand for change in basic values. Unfortunately, when the distinction is not made our quality of life can be impaired. If we believe the values that constitute our equality of life are worth preserving, then we must be prepared to respond in a positive way to these challenges on behalf of the community of citizens we represent.

The seriousness of these challenges and the necessity of government to recognize and to respond to these challenges cannot be minimized. What must be of equal concern is conscious or unconscious effort in some quarters insidiously to distort basic values rather than openly to demand change of values. I believe that what I am saying can best be illustrated by the controversy that has been raging in our society over what has been, is, and will be a most basic and fundamental issue for all time, the respect for and the sanctity of life itself.

Whether the issue is euthanasia or abortion, the challenge has been made to the basic belief in the right to life and the right to preserve life. There is an onerous responsibility on elected leaders from a secular point of view to respect the dignity of human life itself and to preserve or enact the laws that will ensure that that dignity or fundamental right will not be imperilled or destroyed.

With this concern in mind, one cannot let go unnoticed an event of last week which emphasizes the reality of forces within our society which see justification for tampering with these basic values in the name of supposedly greater freedom of the individual. I refer, of course, to the recent entry into the United Way of an organization which advocates and supports abortion counselling and referral services.

This action by the United Way prompted the issuance last week of a declaration by Archbishop Philip Pocock, of the archdiocese of Toronto, wherein he announced the with-



drawal of the Council of Catholic Charities from the United Community Fund of Greater Toronto. While the declaration stems from a religious base, in reading and rereading the archbishop's statement one can gain an appreciation of the profound importance of his position—to preserve basic values; basic values which are not, however, the exclusive domain of any particular religious sect, but which also fall within the broader parameters of fundamental secular values. While the archbishop's statement was concise, its content was so intense as to arouse one from a state of complacency.

The archbishop's concern, and now my concern as a community leader, is that the United Community Fund of Greater Toronto has recently admitted an organization which advocates and supports abortion counselling and referral services. The archbishop points out that:

Such an action contradicts the fundamental truth of a Christian tradition which respects the dignity and rights of every person. Such an abdication betrays the heritage of a western democracy which has been built upon the concept of defending the defenceless.

The declaration continues with the observation that—

Every human being is unique and priceless and that human life must be respected at every stage of its development from the first mysterious moment of conception to the declining days of advanced age.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Tell it to the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Taylor).

**Mr. Williams:** It continues:

Such phrases as "termination" or "interruption" of pregnancy are infringements upon the rights of the individual upon which our nation and indeed all civilizations rest. To destroy one human life which has already begun is a threat to all humanity. The basis of a free society is fundamentally rooted in the concept that violence to one is a menace to all. Abortion is an execution against life.

The last quotation I will make from the archbishop's declaration is a statement that I believe puts it all together, to use the common vernacular; or to put it more precisely, it is a statement that puts the whole issue into its proper perspective. The archbishop states:

The decision of the United Community Fund is being presented on the pretext of either coexistence within a pluralistic soci-

ety or the freedom that whatever is permitted is proper. The adulation of pluralism can be an escape hatch for rationale. It justifies excess and leads to permissiveness. It cultivates laxity and destroys both logic and morals. Freedom is the cornerstone of democracy and civilization. It is guaranteed to every person. It is that guarantee we want to preserve and it is each person we want to protect. Abortion is an encroachment on these rights.

[5.00]

I have reiterated these views only because they reinforce a humanitarian perspective that recognizes the right to life and preservation of life as the fundamental cornerstone of our society. Accordingly, we must indeed set about reordering our priorities in the broadest sense of the term. If the optimism about maintaining our quality of life as expressed by the Hon. the Lieutenant Governor is to be realized, I believe that members of this government party have the resolve and determination necessary to carry out this government's mandate. It is my firm belief that the people of Ontario are demanding nothing less than a total commitment to firm and resolute leadership in these troubled times that will ensure, in the end result, a reaffirmation of our basic values and a maintenance of the quality of life that all of us seek to preserve in this the province of opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Ms. Gigantes:** Mr. Speaker, it's very pleasant to have this opportunity to be able to reply to the Speech from the Throne, and the number of issues that one could talk about in such a forum, obviously is almost limitless. We've just had an example in the speech from the member for Oriole which has just preceded this one. I will try, however, to touch more specifically on some of the issues that have been of concern to me and to the people of Carleton East over the last few months.

I have been surprised and almost overwhelmed, almost buried, by the number of letters that have come to me, as the member for Carleton East, on the subject of the government cutbacks in health and social services, and government moves in the area of cutting the increase in financing to municipalities, and therefore the effect that is being felt in municipal services and the increase in property taxes which will follow.

I've been surprised by the number of letters, because I felt that these were issues that would take a long time to be felt by the general population in Ontario, and there were no specific areas in which Carleton East suf-



ferred more, or indeed in many ways it suffered less than other areas that have come to our attention in this Legislature over the last few weeks. But the people of Carleton East are obviously very alive to the significance of the cutbacks that the government has been implementing since December, and very alive to the effects that this programme will have in the long run for services to people in Ontario.

Of all the items that our caucus mentioned, I think these have been the most significant in terms of our amendment to the Speech from the Throne. One item which we might have added in our amendment, and which is significant in my mind and I think in the minds of people in Carleton East, was not mentioned in our amendment and I would like to bring it to your attention now, Mr. Speaker; that is, the problem with urban transportation and what this government has failed to do in the area of urban transportation in Ontario.

In 1971, in the Ottawa-Carleton area, we had high hopes that we would see the development of a basic system of rapid transit within the area. This is 1976, and we don't even have a decent bus service in Ottawa-Carleton.

The people of Carleton East live in a sprawled-out residential riding where communities are widely separated from each other geographically and where travelling to work downtown is a very difficult and very tiring, long, drawn-out process. We need, at the very least, good bus service.

OC Transpo, which has the responsibility for serving the Ottawa-Carleton regional area, is not able to provide a level of service that would be adequate, because the Ottawa-Carleton regional area does not have the financial wherewithal to be able to deal with the deficits that OC Transport has been incurring.

We must have increased service in Ottawa-Carleton; the only way we are going to get that is with larger deficits—and we must have provincial help to deal with those deficits. The promises of 1971 are not being met, and I think in 1976 it is critical that a government that is willing to spend millions of dollars on new arterial roads through urban centres and on major highways should start to think about helping people get to and from work in areas of major urban concentration.

One thing that the NDP amendment does include is another issue which is of paramount importance to the riding I represent, and that is housing. The problem with hous-

ing has been supply—and supply at reasonable cost. The HOME programme, which has been carried out in Ontario over the last few years, is really a short-run land-banking scheme. It worked; it helped to produce houses at prices the people could afford.

I used to say to people in Carleton East that the HOME programme was fine, except that it was too limited. But within recent months the government has undermined the very essential, beneficial effect of the HOME programme by allowing purchasers of HOME homes who sell their properties to sell the land which the government had, in the first place, put into public use. The government has undermined the very quintessence of the beauty of that programme—which is that the government controlled the land—controlled the price of the land—and was able to provide low-cost housing on that land. Under the current government measures, the land will now pass back into the private sector and Ontario, and the people of Ontario, will lose the benefits of the HOME programme.

Supply, as I have mentioned, is the critical element in the housing problem as I see it. The government has recently announced that it will not follow through on its promised programme to subsidize mortgages in Ontario. Under current circumstances of supply, I think that is probably a reasonable position to take.

I would like to give you one example with which I am familiar in the Ottawa area. I know of a large condominium building, built in downtown Ottawa, which remained almost totally empty for a year and half; it had three-bedroom apartments going for \$61,900 and a condominium regulation saying that no children were allowed in that building.

In a situation like that, where owners and developers have the financial wherewithal to be able to wait out the market, there is no way that we should be subsidizing mortgages. Why should we think of bringing the market up to the developer's level and meeting those kinds of stipulations—\$61,900 for a three-bedroom apartment and no children? We must have a greater supply of housing before we can talk about subsidizing mortgages.

In Ottawa-Carleton, housing supply has been critical. There has been line-ups at expensive housing development sites; fist fights in line-ups at housing sites; and homes being out of the reach of the majority of people who live in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

I would like to focus some of my comments today on an area where government



policies could change and where simple honesty in government policy would help a lot of home owners in the riding of Carleton East. In Carleton East we estimate that there are about 4,000 condominium units. It's a very large proportion of the residences of the area. I would like to talk about the changes which this government could bring about within the Condominium Act which would help to protect the rights of condominium owners, so many of whom live in Carleton East. I know it is becoming an increasingly important part of the housing sector in Ontario.

These changes, the first ones that I would like to indicate, are changes that would not cost the provincial government one penny. They might cost the Conservative government—the Conservative Party—many pennies as I understand that contributions from developers have certainly been made to the Conservative Party election funds and perhaps after 33 years in power this government has difficulty distinguishing the Conservative Party from the government of Ontario.

**An hon. member:** Shame on them.

**Ms. Gigantes:** The Act as it stands does not give adequate protection to the individual condominium owner. The family about to buy a condominium is entering on the largest purchase it will probably make in its lifetime.

Most condominiums, however, are managed in the first few months by the developer which built them and it is very difficult for condominium owners to bring about a change in the management of their condominiums. There has been case after case in Carleton East—which, as I have indicated, has a great many condominium corporations—where developers have proved to be intransigent and, in some cases, incompetent managers of condominium corporations. The condominium owners have had a great deal of difficulty in managing to change their management.

Under the former legislation, the Condominium Act of 1970, it took an 80 per cent vote of all the owners in a condominium corporation for the owners of that corporation to be able to change the management. I remind members again that, in most cases, in a newly-incorporated condominium the management is the developer.

With the changes to the Condominium Act in 1974, it is now only necessary for 66 and two-thirds of the owners to vote for a change in management. That still can prove to be very difficult. I would like to read a letter which will indicate the depth of this problem and the great difficulty the current

legislation now creates and allows to exist in terms of how condominium owners can change management.

I have a letter dated Feb. 5, 1976, from the Bank of Montreal addressed to the unit owners of Carleton Condominium Corp. No. 25. This is a condominium which is called Sutton Place. It consists of two towers, in one of which the mortgages of the individual owners are financed through the Bank of Montreal. In the second tower, most of the owners have their mortgages through the Provincial Bank of Canada. The letter goes as follows:

We have just learned that the board of directors of your condominium corporation is intending to terminate the management contract between the condominium corporation and Shenkman Corp. Ltd. We are in the delicate position of having undertaken and agreeing with Ontario Housing Corp., as one of its conditions of guaranteeing our individual unit mortgages, that we would insist that Shenkman Corp. Ltd. manage the condominium corporation for a period of five years.

[5:15]

Mr. Speaker, at this point I should identify Shenkman Corp. as the developer in this case also. I continue with the letter:

If the board of directors on instructions from the condominium owners insist on terminating the existing contract, we will seriously consider, in order to protect our interest and to not disturb our guarantee, withdrawing the right of condominium owners to vote and take over this responsibility ourselves in accordance with paragraph 23 of the first mortgage registered against most of the units.

Please understand that it is not our wish to interfere with the operation of this condominium corporation by the owners, but on the other hand we cannot stand by and watch our security being jeopardized.

It is not acceptable to us that the management contract be terminated until we obtain a waiver of the condition from Ontario Housing Corp. and until it is conclusively shown to us that the present manager is incompetent and the corporation can be better managed by others and detailing to us the alternative means being considered for managing the business of the corporation.

To conclude, please realize that the reason that Ontario Housing Corp. and the bank insisted on Shenkman Corp. Ltd. managing this operation was for the protection of the owners as well as ourselves.



And it goes on. It's signed by Mr. R. Boudreau, the mortgage manager.

Each and every owner of condominium units within Sutton Place received that letter just prior to a scheduled meeting at which the condominium owners were considering changing their management, for which they needed a 66⅔ vote of all the owners. There is an identical letter from the Provincial Bank of Canada. It's obviously a copy, and it's signed by Mr. Davignon, the assistant regional supervisor. This letter too went to every condominium unit in Sutton Place.

It's obvious that that kind of letter can and did have a very, what shall we say—blackmailing?

**Mr. Moffatt:** Intimidating.

**Ms. Gigantes:** Intimidating is the word I'm looking for, thank you—effect on the individual owners in that condominium. In spite of that, I'm happy to report that they overcame their fears and with legal advice went ahead and have started the process of ridding themselves of their current manager.

It's clear the mortgagor, in this case, for example, the Bank of Montreal and the Provincial Bank of Canada, has a right to try to protect its investment, and the investment in a condominium corporation such as Sutton Place is a major one. But, especially as we see in this example, when there are close links between the banks and the major developers, condominium owners have to be protected from this kind of gross pressure which developers and their financial backers can bring to bear on the operation of the condominiums.

As the law now stands, the banks can withdraw from the owners the right to vote and the owners would have to try and take the bank to court in order to exercise their right to vote for the management of their corporation. The law should be written the other way around. We recognize that the owners have an investment, but we have to recognize that the individual owners are subject to all kinds of pressures and that to rid themselves of existing management may be very difficult. I think that we have to write into the law the right for individual owners to be protected vis-à-vis the developers and their bankers in a situation such as this one. There is an imbalance of power now and I think that the law must be rewritten to turn that balance around.

One of the other problems that arises in condominium corporations under current legislation is that any person can own any num-

ber of units within the corporation. In most cases, the person who is going to be interested in accumulating units, and hence votes in a corporation of this kind, is going to be a developer. One can imagine situations, and in fact there is some threat of situations developing within Carleton East, where developers are buying back units at cut-rate costs in a situation where they are also the management. They are becoming a controlling interest, not only in terms of being the managing company but also in terms of the ownership of the units and control of the votes of the condominium corporation. I think there have to be regulations written into Ontario law which will protect individual condominium owners from this kind of development. It can undermine the investment they have made as individuals in their condominium units, and I think it is time that Ontario law took the problem into real consideration.

The law must be changed also in the matter of use of proxies for votes at condominium corporation meetings, particularly at meetings of importance where, for example, management might be being challenged. I think the law should lay down rules for the use of proxies and should insist that proxy votes only be transferable to people who live within a condominium corporation. It is possible again for one individual, and particularly for a developer, to round up proxies in a situation where there may be absentee ownership of condominium units, and to effectively control the management of a condominium corporation through the unlimited use of proxies.

Condominium law, as it now stands in Ontario, does not lay out regulations under which management may take on loans in the name of that condominium corporation. I feel very strongly, and I know I am supported by condominium owners in Carleton East, that the law of Ontario should be amended to give protection to condominium owners as a group that their management will not take on loans which they do not know anything about. As the law stands now, loans are only governed under bylaws and it is not a requirement that management inform and have support for taking out loans for the corporation.

The law should be changed so that management, whatever management company or management group is in direction of the corporation, will not be able to hold the assets of that corporation in the name of the management, but must hold the assets of the corporation in the name of the corporation. A situation is developing now in Carleton East where many condominium corporations are being managed by the same management company. There is developing a whole new



field of enterprise which is called condominium corporation management, and companies are being formed that offer themselves as management to many condominium corporations.

If these companies are permitted to hold the assets of condominium corporations in the name of the management company, then one can imagine a great many situations which are going to be fraught with legal hazards and offer possibilities of financial mismanagement in the future. I think it very important that Ontario law take cognizance of that possibility and that the law should prescribe that the assets of the condominium corporations are held only in the name of that corporation.

One other point about condominium law which I think should be raised, and in which a change would cost the government nothing, is that condominium law must be available in translation in the French language. Within Carleton East the francophone population is anywhere between 20 per cent and 30 per cent in given areas, and many francophones in our area are purchasing condominiums.

Condominium law and the rights and responsibilities of condominium owners are difficult enough to understand if one's language is English and the law is in English, believe me. But for people who speak French and who cannot obtain a translation of condominium law, I think it is a real injustice. I think it imperative that the government of Ontario provide French translations of condominium law so that individual condominium owners can exercise their full rights and responsibilities within condominium corporations in Ontario.

One other area I would like to mention would cost one government or another some money, and that is the taxation of condominiums. As you are aware, sir, we revised the Condominium Act in the fall and, for the first time, we insisted in Ontario that condominium units be taxed on the same basis as all other residential units; that they be taxed on fair property value.

**Mr. Cassidy:** It was the NDP that got that amendment.

**Ms. Gigantes:** Yes, it was the NDP that got that one in.

**Mr. Moffatt:** That's responsible.

**Ms. Gigantes:** That was step No. 1. Step No. 2 lies ahead of us.

**Mr. Nixon:** Now that you have two people, you can scratch backs.

**Mr. Moffatt:** The two leaders?

**Mr. Martel:** Whose back was Houlton scratching?

**Ms. Gigantes:** At the moment, the Condominium Act specifies that owners must pay for maintenance of common elements. That is to say that each person who owns a unit in a condominium corporation is also responsible for a fee which covers the common elements.

**Mr. Nixon:** Taylor always used to say things that got publicity.

**Ms. Gigantes:** I believe this constitutes a form of double taxation, given that condominium corporation owners also have to pay normal municipal property taxes. The condominium owner pays taxes on the real value of his own personal condominium unit. He also pays municipal taxes on the common property elements of the condominium. Then he also has to pay condominium fees for such services as are normally provided by a municipality. These services include the maintenance of access streets, snow clearance of access streets, salting and sanding of access streets, the maintenance of outdoor lights on access streets, the maintenance of fire hydrants, sewer maintenance on access streets and the maintenance and installation of street signs.

I think that simple equity demands an adjustment in condominium taxes. As was the case in the Condominium Act revisions, which we went through in the fall, it is the province which has the responsibility to take the initiative to make sure that adjustment takes place.

I have been in touch recently with the Ministry of Revenue, and I have forceably argued the case with spokesmen from the ministry that this kind of adjustment is a fair and reasonable kind of request on the part of condominium owners. However, the argument came back to me from the ministry that an adjustment of condominium taxes would constitute a precedent similar to a refusal to pay school taxes if you didn't have children.

I consider this argument to be a specious argument, because a request for an adjustment of condominium taxes doesn't constitute an attempt to avoid a general tax; it's a request that condominium owners won't be forced to pay the same tax twice.

**Mr. Speaker,** in concluding, I would like to express my gratitude for being able to put before this House the concerns that I have heard expressed in Carleton East by the many thousands of people who are in

condominium units and who have felt deceived over the last five years by the government that has promoted the sale of condominium units, talked about how condominium ownership was a new form of property and house ownership in Ontario, and talked in glowing terms about how it was offering so much to the very restrained housing market in Ontario. I think the condominium owners throughout Carleton East, and probably throughout the province, feel they've been let down by a government which has not provided a sound enough legislative framework so that they can live peaceable, simple, direct, easily-accountable lives in their condominium units. They have been harassed and bothered ever since they first began purchasing condominium units, and I think it is imperative that the government of Ontario now recognizes its responsibility for making sure that condominium owners in Ontario have a decent deal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[5:30]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Essex South.

**Mr. Mancini:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise here in the legislative assembly of Ontario and embark upon the traditional Throne Speech debate, which allows me to try to make the members of this House a little bit more familiar with my riding, the great riding of Essex South.

I have decided that I will keep all the political and partisan statements to a bare minimum.

Interjections.

**Mr. Mancini:** I'm sorry to have disappointed my friends here on the right. I said to the bare minimum; I'm not going to let them get away altogether.

**Mr. Moffatt:** You are going to keep to the unbearable minimum.

**Mr. Mancini:** Before I start, since there's been such a large request, maybe I will get a little bit political. Let's go back to the Sept. 18 election. I must say it was on that day the Conservative government of this province lost its grip on majority rule. It was on that day the people of Ontario said they had seen enough, enough of regional government—and I might add that those fellows on my right also support regional government—and enough of the aimless directions that the Conservative government has been going in; enough of the vote buying, which

seems to have become the only sole philosophy of this government here in Ontario.

But, as extreme as that philosophy is, there is another philosophy in this House and it sits over here on my right—

**Mr. Warner:** Got two philosophies.

**Mr. Mancini:** —a philosophy so vulgar that it insults the very intelligence of the people of Ontario.

**Mr. Nixon:** The very word.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Is it one of your old speeches, Bob? It sounds like it.

**Mr. Mancini:** A philosophy which would pretend to give everything to everybody and grant a solution to every problem. I would say that they spout this off without any form of embarrassment.

**Mr. Nixon:** Do you think they would be embarrassed?

**Mr. Mancini:** But getting back to the text of my remarks, I would like to bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to ask you if you remember, some years ago, a very fine gentleman who represented the constituency of Essex South, a member of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, a very fine man by the name of Bill Murdoch?

Mr. Murdoch represented his constituents in a very fine and honourable manner in the years between 1943 to 1963.

**Mr. Martel:** Did you write that for him, Bob?

**Mr. Mancini:** He became Speaker of this legislative assembly in the years 1960 to 1963. The member following Mr. Murdoch, who wrested his seat away from him, was another gentleman by the name of Don Paterson.

**Mr. Nixon:** Now you are talking.

**Mr. Martel:** A fine fellow.

**Mr. B. Newman:** The finest of the fine.

**Mr. Mancini:** A very fine fellow, as my friend Elie has said. Mr. Paterson, a very honourable and capable man, represented the constituents of Essex South from the years 1962 to 1975. He brought Essex South under the Liberal fold, and today I would like to say that Mr. Paterson has retired from the assembly but he is still active and is still a viable force in Liberal politics in Essex



South, and a well respected man in his community.

**Mr. Martel:** You are going to vote with the government too, next week.

**Mr. Laughren:** Why did you take the election away from him?

**Mr. Foulds:** What do you mean a viable force?

**Mr. Mancini:** Essex South has approximately 55,000 people. Many of these people are from ethnic backgrounds—

**Mr. Ruston:** Great workers.

**Mr. Nixon:** Well to do.

**Mr. Mancini:** Right, very great workers. Anderdon township, where I make my residence, and the River Canard areas is populated by very proud French Canadians. The Amherstburg area has a rather large Italian ethnic community, with an ethnic club they refer to as the Verdi Club. In the Harrow area, there is a very large Portuguese community which has also established an ethnic club for itself. Fine people.

In the Leamington area there is another Italian club, the Roma Club. The Lebanese community which, I might say, is the largest in all of Canada is presently making plans for establishing an ethnic club. The Germans of the area have probably one of the most attractive establishments at the Rhine Danube Club.

This brings me to the point of mentioning the Mennonite community of Essex South. These people are extremely hard-working and industrious. A few weeks ago I had the privilege of participating at the opening of their new auditorium and gymnasium complex. I want to tell my friends over here on the right that not everyone needs help and there are still some people left in this Province of Ontario who can do things for themselves. These people have built for themselves, without one penny from outside their community—

**Mr. Foulds:** No assistance from the Liberal Party.

**Mr. Mancini:** —and without one penny from this Ontario government a \$500,000 gymnasium and auditorium.

Interjection.

**Mr. Mancini:** Mr. Speaker, I would just like to digress for a moment, if I may—

**Mr. Martel:** I thought that was a digression.

**Mr. Mancini:** I think you are a digression, personally.

Interjections.

**Mr. Mancini:** Mr. Speaker, if I could have order in this House—

**Mr. Ruston:** A little order in this House; keep them in order.

**Mr. Mancini:** I would like to go back to March 30 when the hon. member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) just about insulted everyone here when he made comments implying that areas held by Tory members were better taken care of financially by the government of Ontario. A more crass form of politics cannot be found.

**Mr. Laughren:** It is not true of Parry Sound.

**Mr. Maccek:** Certainly not.

**Mr. Mancini:** If the Premier had any sense or feeling he would ask that member to withdraw his remarks and apologize to this assembly.

As a matter of fact, that philosophy doesn't stay in Scarborough Centre; it travels throughout the whole province. I can recall last September that the only campaign platform the Tories had in Windsor and Essex county was to vote for a fellow on the government side of the House. They forgot to say on the minority side of the House because there are more members in opposition now than there are in government.

**Mr. Nixon:** Do the Tories still run candidates down there in Essex and Windsor?

**Mr. Mancini:** Over the last few days I have tolerated, and I am still tolerating, statements by the socialist members of this House who sometimes speak of free enterprise, as I am sure one of them did today—

**Mr. Martel:** Socialist hordes.

**Mr. Cunningham:** Especially when Stephen's away.

**Mr. Moffatt:** He is so seldom away.

**Mr. Foulds:** We are trying to get in tennis lessons.

**Mr. Mancini:** The fact remains, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Warner:** What are you going to do?

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I am being accosted here.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Mancini: The fact remains that in the last session of this assembly, when a vote was put to this House about the province having its own anti-inflation programme and coming to help the people in the public service—helping take care of our own, that's how I see it—these fellows here abandoned all their responsibilities and they are still catching it from the trades unions.

Mr. Warner: What are you going to do?

Mr. Mancini: They are still catching it.

Mr. Foulds: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that this party is represented by more than fellows. We have representation by both men and women in this party.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: That's not a point of order. The hon. member for Essex South can continue.

Mr. Mancini: I apologize to the member for Carleton East (Ms. Gigantes).

Some hon. members: And the member for Peterborough (Ms. Sandeman).

Mr. Mancini: She's not here right now.

Getting back to the riding of Essex South, I would like to mention the very famous Pelee Island. I would like to invite all members of this House, ladies and gentlemen, to Pelee Island during the great pheasant hunt and partake in that great institution.

Mr. Martel: Even the socialist hordes.

Mr. Bullbrook: You are lucky it's not a peasant hunt.

Mr. Foulds: Keep the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) away though. There will be a special privilege for his father-in-law.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: Essex South has three main job occupations—industry, farming and fishing. The Kingsville and Wheatley areas I would say are the capital ports of Essex South. They

employ many hundreds of people in the fishing industry and bring many millions of dollars to the community. The Leamington area is the tomato capital of all the world.

Mr. Ruston: I've seen some of these nice tomatoes down there.

Mr. Mancini: The farming industry and the labour industry, who support me very well, are spread across the riding. A great deal of it is congregated in the Amherstburg and Leamington area. I just want to add for the advice of my friends here that the UAW locals and the AFL-CIO locals openly came out in support of a Liberal member in that area.

Mr. Foulds: Are you tied to big labour?

Mr. Laughren: Do you take contributions from the international unions?

Mr. Mancini: We in the Liberal Party try to represent everyone.

An hon. member: And everything.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mancini: Thank you for coming to the rescue, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to take time out to mention something very unique in the Province of Ontario. That is that there is only one volunteer ambulance service and that happens to be in the great riding of Essex South. It's situated in the Amherstberg, Anderdon and Malden areas. Having known the great wisdom of the Conservatives of Ontario, one wouldn't have to wonder too deeply why on earth anyone would want to take away this voluntary ambulance service, as they tried to do nearly three years ago.

Mr. Foulds: This guy's got a memory.

An hon. member: Shame, shame.

Mr. Mancini: I believe it would behave them to leave that service alone.

Mr. Ruston: The Conservatives are like the NDP—they want to take over everything.

Mr. Mancini: I'd just like to say that I've enjoyed my work in the Labour and Workmen's Compensation Board estimates a great deal and I hope I can learn a lot more. I sincerely hope that in some small way I can assess the blue collar workers of Ontario. Just getting on to workmen's compensation, I don't believe, as my friends here on the right believe, that it should be abolished. I think it should be bettered.

I'm very glad to see the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) here.



**Mr. Good:** The only cabinet minister.

**An hon. member:** He's not listening.

**Mr. Mancini:** He's going to be listening in a minute. I think it's time for the Attorney General to put out his tentacles a little bit further than the hockey rink and start to become concerned with crime in the streets, and start to become concerned with plea bargaining, and start to become concerned with the way the judges in our province hand down decisions. I've spoken to the Attorney General on occasion before.

#### Interjection

**Mr. Mancini:** This has to be brought out—if the NDP will let me—

**Mr. Martel:** Go ahead.

[5:45]

**Mr. Mancini:** It has to be known that in the riding of Essex South there was a very sad situation occur. Many lives were damaged forever, I would say. It has to be known that I feel that some judges in this province would have to pay slightly more attention.

There was a rape case and these particular individuals were convicted twice by a judge and jury but they were granted a retrial in each situation. They were granted a third retrial and they were found guilty by a judge and jury again. I think there is something wrong with our judicial system when persons found guilty by their peers on two separate occasions are again granted a retrial, and again the victims are dragged through the courts as though they were the criminal.

I would like to close by saying that I am a little bit disappointed with the province's restraint programme in the light of the way the Tories threw money around last September; and in light of the fact that they gave almost \$500 million away—that we can keep track of anyway. Today, they have the audacity to close down the hospitals and tear the guts out of small communities to save \$50 million.

**Mr. Martel:** But you will support them.

**Mr. Laughren:** You'll support them.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Mancini:** We don't support that government in their actions.

Interjections.

**An hon. member:** Tell us about the Anti-Inflation Board.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Kerrio:** We are going to fool you guys again.

**Mr. Martel:** Good.

**Mr. Kerrio:** You had your chance.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Kerrio:** In bed with Trudeau and those guys.

**Mr. Mancini:** I would just like to say that—

**Mr. Martel:** You have got it rough.

**Mr. Mancini:** —when a government has done this it has lost all form of consciousness and should be defeated.

**Mr. Speaker:** Do we have another speaker who wishes to participate in this debate? The hon. member for Eglinton.

**Mr. Martel:** Is this your maiden speech?

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** Firstly, I would like to assure my hon. friend opposite, the member for Essex South, that I am indeed concerned about matters relating to the administration of justice which go far beyond what might be termed excessive violence or brutality in the ice arenas of this province. In the same context I might say I have been reluctantly absent from some of the very major clashes which have involved some of my colleagues, such as the hon. member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), at Maple Leaf Gardens for fear of the position I might be placed in if I were perceived to be aiding and abetting some of the conduct which has been reported to me as occurring from time to time and involving some of the hon. members.

In a more serious vein, particularly in relation to certain remarks made by my friend, the member for Essex South, in respect to the administration of justice in this province, I should like to state that I have been satisfied, not only during my short tenure as Attorney General for this province but by reason of my experience as a trial counsel in the courts of this province for almost 18 years, that the overwhelming majority of judges at all levels of our courts carry on their duties in a very dedicated and conscientious manner with overriding concern for the community as a whole.

I do believe that anyone who has the privilege of holding the office of Attorney General for the province does have responsibilities which obviously should be governed by considerations which have nothing to do with partisan politics.

During the short time I have occupied this office, I think I have encouraged members from all sides of the House, including the hon. member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) to communicate with me at any time they felt the administration of justice was not being well served; and I would like to reiterate that I hope this type of communication will continue in the future. I do believe that insofar as the administration of justice is concerned it's generally a matter that is approached on a relatively non-partisan basis, because I am confident that all of the members of this Legislature are deeply concerned with maintaining the high quality of administration of justice we have generally enjoyed in this province.

Mr. Speaker, as you know sir, the government indicated in the Speech from the Throne that it would seek the support of this House for a programme to improve the administration of justice in our province. At the same time, the government is committed to reforms in estate law which will include revisions concerning the rights of children and spouses in property matters. Although the administration of justice has many facets, all of which are significant, at the present time one of the most important—and one to which I am sure this House would wish to direct its attention—is the administration of the courts of Ontario. It is our objective to develop an administration of those courts which will ensure the continued independence and impartiality of the judiciary, and at the same time ensure the efficient and economical operation of the several levels of courts of the province. To achieve this objective under our constitutional system, we must bring into balance two principles which are equally important but in practice sometimes extremely difficult to co-ordinate.

The administration of justice is a responsibility, certainly, of this Legislature under the British North America Act, and it follows that this House holds me, as the Attorney General accountable to it for that responsibility in relation to the administration of the courts.

The expenditure of public funds in the court system and the accountability for that expenditure to the legislative assembly is certainly fundamental to our system of responsible government. On the other hand, our parliamentary form of government contemplates as an inherent principle a separation of the judicial function from the other branches of government. This separation is commonly described as the principle of the independence of the judiciary, and I think

members from all sides would readily agree that this concept is absolutely fundamental to any proper administration of justice.

**Mr. Nixon:** We agree over here, but where are your people? There is not another cabinet minister here to listen to you.

**Mr. Singer:** Arthur Meen.

**Mr. Nixon:** Arthur is engaged in active conversation with another member. I really think it is a sorry tale.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** I am sure they are all listening intently outside the doors, and some of them might feel they have heard this before.

**Mr. Roy:** You have six members over there.

**Mr. Nixon:** We are on the Attorney General's side in that sense.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** The principles in relation to the separation of the judicial function and the responsibility of the Attorney General for the administration of justice do meet, and sometimes head-on, in the area of courts administration. In our system of government it is essential that a practical working relationship be established between the courts and the Legislature on all administrative and financial matters. As Attorney General, I am faced daily with pragmatic difficulties in developing this relationship which is so essential to the total administration of justice.

**Mr. Singer:** And getting money from the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough); that's the other problem.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** That is certainly an interesting challenge. The Treasurer is very aware of his responsibilities to all the citizens in Ontario in relation to protecting the public purse. It is necessary for any minister of the Crown to plead a very effective case in order to secure the funds that we all sincerely believe are necessary to carry out our functions; and certainly the additional funds which I personally believe to be necessary for the administration of justice. Where is the Treasurer?

**Mr. Moffatt:** You listened to him in the election; that is the trouble.

**Mr. Roy:** Don't lose hope. If we get close to an election he becomes more generous.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** As I indicated, although many studies have been done in Canada, we have still not as yet established



a mutually-acceptable definition of the respective roles of the government and the judiciary in administration of the courts. The difficulty is manifested in many ways, but none so obvious as in the problems encountered in case-flow management.

Delay in the disposition of cases is not only a chronic problem of our court system but one which exists in virtually all common law jurisdictions of the world. In Ontario, it has been underlined by the admittedly existing case load crisis. This crisis, in turn, is attributable to a number of factors such as population increases, the advent of the automobile, the complexities of modern business, growing recognition of individual rights, the continued expansion of the regulatory powers of government and the acceptance of legal aid as a pillar of our administration of justice.

**Mr. Singer:** It being 6 of the clock—

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** In view of the fact that I was about, at this point to remind my friends once again of this time of serious government spending restraints, I will demonstrate the type of restraint I'm sure is expected of me, even as a neophyte in this Legislature, by becoming aware that it is now 6 o'clock.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry** moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will continue with the debate on the Speech from the Throne.

**Hon. Mr. Meen** moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

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# Legislature of Ontario Debates

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Third Session of the 30th Parliament ★

Thursday, April 1, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe  
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

## POINT OF PRIVILEGE

**Mr. Wiseman:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise on a point of personal privilege. Yesterday during the question period the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) asked a question and the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) asked a supplementary as to whether or not I had a conflict of interest because my wife runs a small 17-bed chronic hospital in the town of Perth, in which she has given service second to none to the area people over the last 20 years.

I would like to point out at this time also that there are two private hospitals in Perth, one owned by Mrs. Delaney and one by my wife. I feel strongly that because I am a member of this Legislature my wife should not be treated as a second-class citizen just because she happens to be married to me. This goes for all spouses who happen to be married to members of this Legislature and who choose to pursue their professions. They should not be handicapped in doing so.

I would also like to point out that when I became the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Health I disclosed my holdings and this hospital was one of them. Also my duties with this ministry did not include the closing of hospital beds or the closure of hospitals.

For 45 years I have tried to build up a reputation of honesty and integrity and I feel an injustice has been done to me by the insinuation here yesterday that because my wife has pursued her interest, I have a conflict.

**Mr. Roy:** We can ask a question on it, can't we?

**Mr. Conway:** Mr. Speaker, if I might respond.

An hon. member. Sit down.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very briefly. We will see the tenor of the response.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** He can speak to it.

**Mrs. Campbell:** He can speak to it.

**Mr. Conway:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly would like on this point of privilege to make it very clear that in no way would I care to leave that impression. The gentleman, the hon. member for Lanark, to the best of my knowledge, is a fine and honourable man and I have no intention now or in the future to cast aspersions on his reputation, which I know to be a fine one.

I simply intended in my question to ask the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) whether or not it concerned her that there was a lack of guidelines governing parliamentary assistants in this province, and that was the point. Certainly I want to go on record very clearly and very positively that in no way is it my intention now or in the future to leave the impression or cast the aspersion that the hon. member for Lanark is in a position of conflict of interest.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** You should have quit while you were ahead.

**Mr. Deans:** That's what he asked.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the matter can rest there.

**Mr. Nixon:** But the question was a proper one.

**Mr. Lewis:** I believe in the independence of spouses to pursue the profession of their choice.

**Mr. Speaker:** Statements by the ministry.

## PAYMENT TO DRAKE PERSONNEL

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** Yesterday in reply to a question from the leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. S. Smith), I inadvertently indicated that the contracts entered into with the Ministry of Housing and Drake Personnel Services last December included the supply of furniture to the offices that were being established around the province. That is incorrect. I can only say that originally, when the matter was discussed, this possibility was considered but it was dropped because it turned out that it would be far more expensive than the supply of used and new furniture sup-

plied by Government Services, and I apologize for that inadvertence.

### COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT WITH OPP ASSOCIATION

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** I am pleased to announce today that an agreement has been reached on the terms of a one-year agreement between the government and the Ontario Provincial Police Association. The agreement will be effective from today to March 31, 1977, and will provide wage increases ranging from 5.5 per cent to 9.4 per cent, for an overall average of approximately nine per cent. In addition, the plainclothes allowance will be increased by \$50 per year.

The parties indicated from the outset that they would comply with the provisions of the Anti-Inflation Act and final agreement was achieved, within the guidelines, before the expiration date of the current agreement. On behalf of the government, I wish to commend the Ontario Provincial Police Association and all members of the force for the very responsible position they have adopted in these negotiations.

### INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** On Tuesday of this week the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) questioned me about the circumstances noted in newspaper reports about the inquest into the death of Mr. Subash Kalia and the recommendations of the coroner's jury, which jury was impanelled in January of this year.

With the legal counsel of the Ministry of Labour, Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed the entire matter from the records that we have and from the transcript of the trial—of the inquest, at least. From the information we have at this time, there appears to be no basis for a prosecution under the Industrial Safety Act. However, in order to ensure that this matter is thoroughly investigated and to ensure the integrity of the branch, I have retained the services of Mr. Austin Cooper, an eminent Toronto solicitor, to study the entire matter and to make appropriate recommendations to me and to the ministry.

In the light of this, I really do not feel that it would be appropriate to comment further about this case.

**Mr. Speaker:** Oral questions.

### UNITED ASBESTOS PLANT

**Mr. Lewis:** A question first, Mr. Speaker, to the acting Minister of Health in charge of the occupational health accord: Was she aware that, in the process of the last week, misleading information was provided to the media and the public—whether advertently or inadvertently—as to the levels of asbestos contamination at the Matachewan mine site for United Asbestos? Now that those levels, as tabled in the Legislature yesterday, have indicated that the men working there are exposed to conditions four to six times above that of the allowable limit in Ontario, what is to be done and when is it to happen?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, the results which were tabled showed three levels or three different areas of investigation within that mine at Matachewan. There are the ambient air results which were tabled; the personal monitoring results which were tabled; and, I think, the extra plant environmental results. The environmental results are excellent—well within the guidelines—as are the ambient air results within the plant itself.

However, the personal monitoring results in several instances were above the guidelines. One has to remember, however, that the individual worker wears a monitoring device during his entire work day—

**Mr. Martel:** He is not supposed to.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —moves from place to place within the plant and may be exposed in certain spots to a high level which raises the overall daily monitoring.

**Mr. Lewis:** Come on. What's wrong with you? You're a medical practitioner, for God's sake. What kind of response is that?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Let's hear the answer.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Show some respect.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** If the Leader of the Opposition would allow me to continue, I shall tell him what is happening.

A programme of regular monitoring has been established. There will be unannounced visits to the plant at frequent intervals in order to do monitoring by both the occupational health branch and by the Ministry of Natural Resources. In addition to that, with the enthusiastic support of both the union in that plant and the management, the Ministry of Health is holding courses in occupational health hazards for those workers specifically, both in Matachewan and in Kirkland Lake, on April 13 and 14. Present at that time will



be the families of the workers and the workers themselves and any interested members of the community who may attend.

The union is most enthusiastic about the Ministry of Health's efforts and the Ministry of Natural Resources' efforts to clean this plant up. A number of directives were issued at the last visit. They will be followed very carefully. It is, I think, important that we remember that the people of Matachewan are anxious to have that plant function.

The workers within the plant are anxious to have it function as well and they are co-operating tremendously well in the process of improving the environmental health and the occupational health for themselves in that area.

**Mr. Lewis:** There will be a couple of new questions as well, but by way of supplementary: Does the minister not recognize that there is now clear environmental and scientific evidence to demonstrate that workers exposed to levels in excess of two fibres per cubic centimetre, even for a period of less than a month, exhibit a rate of cancer in later life twice that of the regular adult male population? How is it possible to allow them to continue to work in those conditions one day more without forcing the company to clean up? Now, when is the minister prepared to move?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, the orders have been issued to the company. The company is complying with those orders as rapidly as is humanly possible at this point and we believe that they, in conjunction with the workers, are making every effort to clean up that plant. They are at risk at the moment. The order has been issued that every individual who works there must wear his respirator.

[2:15]

**Mr. Lewis:** That does no good. That is irrelevant.

**Mr. Martel:** That's what's wrong.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** We have issued the order that that must be done until all levels are well within the guidelines. In addition to that, there has been a strong persuasive motion, within both management and the union, to ensure that the workers who are exposed will not smoke within the plant because cigarette smoking is undoubtedly a major factor in the incidence of—

**Mr. Lewis:** You're issuing a death warrant at that plant and you're not doing anything about it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —carcinogenic disease which the hon. Leader of the Opposition has raised.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Come on, be serious. Take yourself seriously. Issuing a death warrant.

**Mr. Lewis:** Of course they are.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** What histrionics are those?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Lewis:** What histrionics? You know the consequences of asbestos contamination.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Will the hon. Leader of the Opposition please take his seat? Thank you.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Asinine histrionics. Issuing a death warrant.

**Mr. Martel:** How is it that Dr. Mastromatteo, of the Ministry of Health, four years ago and continually since, has indicated that no one should wear a respirator for more than two hours per shift, otherwise it would affect their health? How is it that he makes that recommendation and this minister and this ministry insist that men wear a respirator for eight hours, knowing full well it can cause respiratory damage, according to the ministry's own advisers?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that Dr. Mastromatteo has made that statement—

**Mr. Martel:** He has, over and over again.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —but I would remind the hon. member for Sudbury East that Dr. Mastromatteo was a member of the inspection team which went to Matachewan last week and was a part of the team which issued the report we have now.

**Mr. Renwick:** We are aware of that.

**Mr. Martel:** It is still his own recommendation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is not a debate.

**Mr. Bain:** Does the minister not feel, since the personal samples were unusually high, that this reflects a more realistic indication of what the real contamination is like in that plant? What is the minister going to do to make the company clean it up? In a letter which went out from the Ministry of Natural

Resources there was mention of smoking, mention of respirators, but not a thing was said to the company about what it had to do to clean it up.

**Mr. Lewis:** Exactly. No directives.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I'm sorry. There was another letter which went to the company—obviously the member does not have a copy of it—in which the specific directions—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:**—regarding various leaks, regarding machinery, regarding piles of dust, regarding vacuuming—there was a list of directions regarding every single operation of the plant in which there was need to improve the function. That list of directions has gone to the company and it has been, really, ordered to comply with it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final supplementary, the member for Nickel Belt.

**Mr. Laughren:** In view of the fact that the company obviously needs a further incentive to clean up its operations why does the minister not ask either the Premier (Mr. Davis) or the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) to order that the workers at that plant be kept on full salary while the place is closed down and cleaned up?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, may I answer that with a question?

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, but don't expect an answer.

**Mr. Laughren:** If I can answer it I will.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I wonder which workers the members of the opposition would send in to clean up the plant?

**Mr. Bain:** Members of the cabinet.

**Mr. Martel:** Start with Dr. Stephenson.

**Mr. Renwick:** Send the ministry in to clean it up.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Order, please.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** All right; I'll go if you will go.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. Leader of the Opposition with further questions.

**Mr. Lewis:** By way of a separate question: Is the minister aware that as of this month

in 1976 there are now 15 deaths from the Johns-Manville asbestos plant in Scarborough; three more deaths from stomach cancer waiting to be accredited by the Workmen's Compensation Board; three more people critically ill; all of them having worked in conditions of asbestos contamination lower than those which the workers are now experiencing at United Asbestos? How is it possible, in light of the evidence which is emerging in Ontario, for her to take a view which allows for intermittent inspections without descending on that company and forcing it to clean up?

**Mr. Laughren:** Bunch of buccaneers.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I would challenge those figures which the Leader of the Opposition is producing in terms of the levels to which the workers at Johns-Manville were exposed—

**Mr. Lewis:** All we have are levels of two to five.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:**—because many years ago, before we were aware of the concern about asbestos, there was no monitoring done. It wasn't done in any jurisdiction, I would remind the member.

**Mr. Lewis:** It is always lower with a manufacturing operation than a milling operation.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Unfortunately—not necessarily.

Interjection.

**Mr. Renwick:** It is not a scientific experiment you are conducting.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The ambient air levels within this plant are now well within the guidelines. The personal monitoring programme, of course, varies from worker to worker, depending upon the area in which that worker works and on the type of job he does.

**Mr. Lewis:** A question of the Minister of the Environment: Is the minister aware that part of the drinking water for the plant comes from a portion of Lloyd Lake, near the plant, on which asbestos dust has been settling for the last several months and there is much fear that the drinking water will then be contaminated at the break-up? Can the minister perhaps test the contamination levels in the lake as a result of the dust which has accumulated?



**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have just become aware of the problem that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has posed. It is in the mill and I hope to have a report very shortly, with the idea of analysing the effect of asbestos on the water.

#### GRANTS TO CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, the last question I want to ask is of the Minister of Community and Social Services. In the range of cutbacks which he is applying to Children's Aid Societies, of 5.5 per cent, is there any intention on his part to rescue the Kingston Children's Aid Society from the predicament in which it finds itself of having had to cut staff and reduce its services to the northern end of Frontenac county and generally to take a questionable position on child care, given the imposition of the 5.5 per cent?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Firstly, of course, they are not cutbacks. This is additional funding over last year. May I say that last year the average increase in funding for Children's Aid Societies—

**Mrs. Campbell:** Come on.

**Mr. Bain:** We have heard this song before.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** —across Ontario was 22.9 per cent—in other words, 23 per cent over the year before—which formed the base for the current year, to which is added another 5.5 per cent. There is no question in my mind that the Children's Aid Societies in this province—

**Mr. Swart:** No answers either.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** —will be able to function within the parameters of spending which have been set out. I have also written to the 50 Children's Aid Societies, telling them that if there are any particular areas of concern, I will deal with them on an individual basis to ensure that no child is neglected, and that shows why I am reviewing the budgets.

**Mr. Lewis:** How did the minister respond to and what did he think of the letter sent to him by the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton)—the parliamentary assistant to the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough)—with a copy to all the cabinet, pleading the case of the Children's Aid Societies in the middle of March, and ending this way:

It is my opinion we are showing a surprising lack of flexibility and a false sense of economy in dealing with children who come under our care. We should be cognizant of this fact and aware of the potential long-term consequences in terms of cost, especially in the area of the care of children.

Doesn't the minister think that the member understands it a lot better than he does?

**Mr. Bain:** He should be the minister.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Roy:** You have a leak in the cabinet.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** May I say that I have a very high regard for the member for Kingston and the Islands, as the—

**An hon. member:** That's not what he says about you.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** —people who elected him have. I think he is very sensitive to the needs of the people in his riding. However, may I say as well that he hasn't been influenced apparently to the extent that the member has in a one-sided way because, in consultation in regard to the problems of the Children's Aid Society, I think he has a better perspective of the needs of the society. He is also cognizant, of course, of the posture and the approach that I have adopted to the Children's Aid Societies to ensure that no child in need suffers.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Any further questions? The member for Hamilton West? Order, please; is this a further supplementary?

**Mr. Lewis:** I don't have a copy of the answer. How did the minister answer his critique, which was a first-rate one, of the dilemma of the Kingston Children's Aid Society?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** May I say, for the member's edification, that I have discussed the problems with the member. I think he is acquainted more fully with the facts of the Children's Aid Societies now.

**Mr. Singer:** He threw out the letter.

**Mr. Deans:** I don't think he agrees with you.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Before one takes too firm a position, one has to be fairly conversant with the facts.

**Mr. Deans:** I think he thinks the same as we do.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I hope not.

**Mr. Deans:** The minister should be replaced.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

#### FUNDS WITHHELD FROM HOSPITALS

**Mr. S. Smith:** A question to the acting Minister of Health: Now that she has had an opportunity to make some inquiries regarding the \$16-million shortfall in grants to Ontario hospitals, can the minister confirm that, as we have been told, the shortfall may not in fact be made up entirely?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The question which the leader of the Liberal Party asked me yesterday regarding the shortfall, I really would like to answer at the moment. As I'm sure he is aware, under the health insurance plan the normal procedure is for payments to be made twice a month during the year to public hospitals to provide funds for the approved budget of operating costs.

In the latter part of the year 1975-1976, the ministry vote, including the supplementary estimates, was \$16 million short of the amount of normal cash flow to hospitals. The government held the view that until the 1976 budgets were struck and approved, under the constraints programme there had to be some reduction in the 1976 increase in normal cash flow. Payments were reduced by \$16 million on a pro rata basis to all of the hospitals. It has meant that hospitals have had to use their working capital or draw upon reserves for a short period of time. Any hospital which has lacked sufficient working capital has had to borrow some funds.

The government has reassessed the cash needs of the individual hospitals, bearing in mind the constraint requirements, and a partial reinstatement of the amount that has been withheld has already been made. We hope to make it up gradually in the future.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Supplementary: I want to be sure I understand this correctly. Is the minister telling this House that, despite an \$85-million supplementary estimate vote a couple of weeks ago, the ministry still underbudgeted by \$16 million and is now asking the hospitals, already put upon by the restraint programmes, to make up the ministry's mistakes from their own working capital and by further cutbacks in the next fiscal year? Is that what we are to understand?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Not really.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Yes, we get it. We understand. You are great managers.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** There has been a problem in this area which is in the process of being rectified and hopefully it will be so rectified reasonably soon. I'm not going to make anything out of that.

#### OHIP PAYMENTS TO ORAL SURGEONS

**Mr. S. Smith:** That's wonderful. That's a classic. I have a separate question. That one can't use a supplementary. That answer has to stand as a gem. Is the acting Minister of Health concerned with the fact that the figures of the ministry indicate that approximately five of Ontario's oral surgeons are billing OHIP more than \$100,000 annually? Is this a subject of concern to the minister?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Yes, it is of grave concern and, with the Ontario Dental Association, we are moving to correct that situation.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Supplementary: Can the minister say whether or not it is true, as we have heard, that some oral surgeons have in fact billed OHIP for as much as \$1,500 to \$2,000 for a day's work and from \$14,000 to \$15,000 a month for only two or three days of work a week? Is that information correct?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** No, I cannot say that. I do not have those figures, as a matter of fact.

**Mr. S. Smith:** As a final supplementary, will she kindly undertake to check on that and tell us if our information is correct?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Yes.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Thank you.

#### ITINERANT SELLERS

**Mr. S. Smith:** A final question from me and that is to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, who doesn't wish to become minister of a mess. He already is.

**Mr. Breithaupt:** He already is.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** You helped construct it.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Has the minister any idea of the number of companies qualifying as itinerant sellers that are currently conducting business in the province without being registered?



**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** First of all, I don't have those figures at my fingertips. I certainly would have information concerning those which are registered. I doubt whether we would have any information in the ministry as to those which are not registered.

[2:30]

**Mr. S. Smith:** Supplementary: I appreciate the answer, and I expected that, but would the minister be prepared to launch some investigation into this and to promise to penalize those who are found to be operating without a licence in view of the express concern of the ministry that, at the moment, those who are paying and volunteering to get their licence are really being penalized because the pirates are able to go along without even bothering to show themselves?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** First of all, we're not about to set up a police investigation network to cover the whole province to find out if somebody is going from door to door, selling things.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Why have the Act?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** We will respond to complaints received from the public or from the hon. member, if he has any cases to bring to our attention. We do have an investigation staff and there are penalties provided for in the legislation which we are quite prepared to invoke; but we have to have the information to act upon.

**Mr. S. Smith:** One final supplementary: Can the minister tell this House how many instances there have been during the past year where penalties have been applied for breaches of that particular Act?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, I can't answer that question immediately. I'll obtain the information and reply to the hon. member.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Thank you.

#### RADIOACTIVITY IN RENFREW AREA

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** On March 30, the Leader of the Opposition asked me a question regarding radiation counts in the dump used by the Chromasco plant outside of Renfrew.

Chromasco Ltd. takes ore from the St. Lawrence mine in Quebec which contains two per cent thorium. Chromasco is operating with a licence from the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada, and the Atomic Energy Control Board is responsible for monitoring this operation.

The staff of the Ministry of Health has been advised by the AE/CB that the plant is being monitored and that it is operating within the guidelines.

If the plant workers or the members of the community have any concerns in this matter, they may request information directly from the Atomic Energy Control Board. The information that we have at the moment from that board is that the dump does not pose any health hazard to those employed in the plant or to the residents in that community.

**Mr. Moffatt:** A supplementary: Will the minister endeavour to get information on the ministry's own rather than accepting the sometimes qualified and sometimes irrelevant information from the Atomic Energy Control Board?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I shall discuss this with the members of the ministry and we will make a decision about it.

#### CENTRAL ALGOMA TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr. Wildman:** I have a question of the Premier, in the absence of the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells). Is the Premier aware of the statements by the chairman of Central Algoma Board of Education, reported in the Soo media this morning, to the effect that the board does not see any point in further negotiations or mediation efforts with its secondary teachers, and that they are waiting for provincial legislation? Does the Premier consider that this conforms with the good-faith bargaining provision of Bill 100?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to comment on what is reported as having been said by somebody. I haven't read the reports, nor have I had any discussion with the chairman of the board. I think I indicated to one of the hon. member's colleagues yesterday that the government was waiting for a report from the commission on the three outstanding situations in the Province of Ontario—the Soo, Algoma and Windsor—and we hope to have these reports from the commission on Friday.

#### ACCIDENT STATISTICS

**Mr. Hodgson:** I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Since a quarter of the year has passed since legislation was passed on seatbelts and the lowering of the speed limits, has his min-

istry been able to compile any figures that show the results of the legislation?

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Mr. Speaker, I don't have the statistics for the first quarter, because, of course, they aren't ready yet. But I do have the accident and collision statistics for the first two months of the year.

Total collisions increased by seven per cent in January and February over the similar period a year previous. Property damage collisions were up approximately 15 per cent. Collisions involving personal injury were down approximately 15 per cent; as well, the number of persons injured was reduced by 15 per cent. The number of fatal collisions during this first two-month period decreased by 32 per cent and the number of fatalities decreased by almost 35 per cent. There have been many individual statistics coming out from some of the municipalities and some of the police forces; this is the full report for the province for those two months.

**Mr. Nixon:** I wonder if the minister would come to the conclusion that while the seat-belt legislation appears to be quite successful, the reduction of the speed limit doesn't seem to have had any apparent effect on the number of accidents? Is that a correct assumption?

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Mr. Speaker, of course we don't have any way of knowing. At this stage I certainly have no indication how much effect each of those individual actions had relating to this improvement, shall we say, in statistics.

I can understand what the hon. member is saying. One would think that because of the reduction in the speed limit there should have been an overall reduction in accidents. This has not been the case. As I stated, the total number of collisions involving property damage, injury and death increased by seven per cent. Although we had more collisions, we had considerably fewer injuries and considerably fewer deaths on the highways. There were 77 fewer people killed in this two-month period in 1976 than there were in 1975.

**Mr. Speaker:** One final supplementary.

**Mr. Roy:** As soon as the minister gets his first quarter's statistics on this, especially in the light of the fact that we are having reductions in injuries and deaths, does he plan to make these statistics available to his colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), to see whether it might affect insurance rates as well?

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Our statistics will be available, and always are available, to anyone who wishes to have them. As you know, normally we publish the statistics in a booklet form annually for the use of all people interested in them, the safety people and so on. I think we are very happy to see the improvement; I am sure every member of the Legislature is. I might say, Mr. Speaker, several other provincial ministers have been in touch with me and with my officials over the past few months—and not only provincial ministries but several states of the United States—and have asked for copies of our legislation and comments on it—

**Mr. Roy:** We showed you how to give some leadership.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** —and I think we are going to see many other jurisdictions follow our lead in this legislation.

**Mr. Burr:** Supplementary.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I announced that as the final supplementary. I think it would be fair to allow one from each of the other two parties, then.

The member for Yorkview was on his feet first.

**Mr. Young:** Supplementary to the minister: Could the minister inform us as to whether or not there is any increase in the registration of motor vehicles this year over last year, as a result of the incentives that the government offered and that sort of thing?

**Mr. Speaker:** Well, that is an entirely different question.

**Mr. Young:** No—

**Mr. Speaker:** You haven't related it to the seatbelt legislation.

**Mr. Young:** It has a direct bearing, Mr. Speaker, because—

**Mr. Speaker:** Not the way the question was asked. If you wish to relate it, it's fine.

**Mr. Young:** It has a direct relationship to the death rate and the accident rate.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I know the connection but the hon. member has not related it. Is there an answer to that?

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Mr. Speaker, I will get an answer for the hon. member. I don't have the number; certainly the trend has always been that we keep getting more and



more automobiles on the highway. I am sure there are more vehicles on the highways today than there were a year ago. I will get the hon. member those figures.

**Mr. Speaker:** Now, the final, final supplementary from the member for Mississauga South.

**Mr. Kennedy:** I was wondering, recognizing that quality of seatbelts and automobiles generally is a federal matter, could the minister do anything to put the heat on the industry to make seatbelts more comfortable?

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Mr. Speaker, my officials are continually in contact with the federal government, which has jurisdiction over this. I have met with the automobile manufacturers' association and had correspondence with them myself. I have drawn certain concerns we have regarding the equipment to their attention and I'm sure every move will be made to make any improvements where they are needed.

### MOSQUITO CONTROL

**Mr. Gaunt:** A question of the Minister of the Environment: In view of the fact that the mosquito control programme scheduled for this spring in Ontario will do nothing to control the encephalitis virus because the mosquito larvae which carry the virus do not appear until midsummer, does the minister intend to have a follow-up programme in midsummer?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think the plans that are being made now in respect to this programme by the various municipalities are to apply for the whole season, not only the spring but for the rest of the year.

I note that most municipalities are allocating funds for the programme and are purchasing insecticides and the chemicals necessary to control the mosquito and encephalitis. I hope the programme will be a complete one. There shouldn't be any interruption.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Supplementary: In the light of the great financial difficulty many municipalities find themselves in, is the minister prepared to increase his portion of the charges for the programme, for the cost in which the municipalities find themselves involved in the spray programme?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not absolutely certain about this, but I think most of the help comes from the Ministry of

Health and therefore I can't answer whether or not our assistance to municipalities will be increased. The member should ask that minister.

**Mr. Gaunt:** Supplementary: Based on the fact that Altosid is approximately 20 times safer, both chemically and environmentally, which is contrary to what we were talking about yesterday—and that's based on the current testing, as I understand it—will the minister reconsider the use of Abate as the controlling chemical in this instance?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** I think the hon. member must have an agency for that larvicide, or whatever it is.

**Mr. Gaunt:** No, as a matter of fact I haven't.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** I think what I would say, Mr. Speaker, is that I've already started looking into the possibilities of also including Altosid as well as Abate. I don't think it should be substituted at this date, but hopefully we can complete our tests so that some of the boroughs—for example those which have acquired a quantity of it—can be assisted financially.

**Mr. S. Smith:** It is a lot safer.

**Mr. Reid:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** That was a final supplementary.

**Mr. Reid:** This is a very important question..

**Mr. Speaker:** I'll permit it then.

**Mr. S. Smith:** It is much safer.

**Mr. Reid:** May I ask the minister what guarantees he's giving to the people of Ontario that these highly toxic substances are not going to get into the systems of small children? It is my understanding it will induce cramps, vomiting, and possibly even death. What guarantees do we have in the province this isn't going to happen?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** I'd like to know where the hon. member got the information that the use of these pesticides, in fact, induces death. I don't think the hon. member should make a—

**Mr. Reid:** How about cramps? How about vomiting? How about paralysis?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** I don't know.

**Mr. Reid:** Well the minister should know.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** I really don't know. All I know is that the Pesticide Advisory Committee considers all these pesticides for use in the atmosphere, and it has approved Abate as far as safety is concerned. It is a little more costly than some of the others that have been recommended but it is considered absolutely safe as far as human beings are concerned. They wouldn't approve it otherwise.

**Mr. Reid:** But there are still these health problems. Has the minister looked at the Manitoba experience?

#### STATUS OF INTERNS

**Mr. Deans:** I have a question of the Minister of Labour. Would the Minister of Labour consult the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) about the problem which is developing with regard to the decision of the Council of the Administrators of Teaching Hospitals to refuse to extend beyond July 1 the arbitration decision of Judge Anderson, in 1974, that interns were in fact employees? And would the Minister of Labour, after having consulted the Minister of Health, perhaps bring in some legislation to clarify the matter once and for all and save us from the prospect of interns not being able to practise in hospitals?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Consultations are being carried on right at the moment by a number of groups involved directly with this problem. I am very hopeful that a solution will be found for it within a very short period of time.

**Mr. Deans:** Supplementary question: Does the minister intend that the solution would be a legislated solution that would eliminate once and for all the need to go to arbitration to determine the jurisdiction?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I would hope the solution would be one which could be arrived at through negotiations amongst the groups, as a matter of fact, and by general agreement of the groups; and, I think, this is a possibility.

#### TRANSPORTATION STUDY

**Mr. Stong:** I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. In the light of the information received in this House on Tuesday night from the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications was

negotiating at the present time with the federal government concerning the Pickering Airport site and, keeping in mind that this government announced the cancellation of that airport about six months ago, with whom is the ministry negotiating and what is it negotiating about?

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Over the past few months, I have had two meetings with Hon. Otto Lang, federal Minister of Transport. I think, as I reported to the House after the initial meeting, there has been general agreement entered into between the federal ministry and my ministry that a full study will be carried out by the FP-CORT committee, which is a joint transportation planning committee of the provincial government and the federal government. This will be a full study of all modes of passenger transportation for southern Ontario to be completed prior to any major decisions being made on new facilities.

**Mr. Godfrey:** Supplementary: Will there be opportunities for citizen participation in that inquiry?

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** I'm sure there will.

Interjections.

**Mr. Godfrey:** Could we have a definite statement that there will be?

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Yes, there will be.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Stong:** Could the minister indicate when those hearings will begin?

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** I haven't had a report for the last few days, but meetings have been taking place between senior officials of my ministry and senior officials of the Department of Transport in Ottawa setting up the final guidelines and terms of reference for this southern Ontario passenger transportation study and I expect the study will get under way very soon. I can't give an exact date, and at this time I can't give any date as to when the committee will be ready to hear the public input.

**Mr. Stong:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think we've had quite a few supplementaries. We'll allow one more supplementary from the member for Etobicoke.

**Mr. Philip:** Can the minister assure the House that no action will be taken on the



construction of any airport until after the study is completed?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** No expansion at all?

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** I certainly would hope that would be the case. It's certainly the general intention that this study will be carried out before any major decisions relating to new transportation facilities are finalized.

On the other hand, airports do not come under the jurisdiction of my ministry or of the province, and I cannot give the hon. member the assurance that the federal ministry will not take any action on any airport prior to the completion of this study. They are working right now while major construction work is going on at Malton.

### TIMAGAMI AREA BUILDING FREEZE

**Mr. Bain:** I have a question of the Attorney General; the matter is of concern to both his ministry and the Ministry of Natural Resources that has been handled by the two ministries for the last three years.

What steps is the government willing to take to resolve the caution that was placed by the Bear Island Indian Foundation in 1973 on all unpatented lands in 110 townships in the Timagami area? The caution has resulted in a building freeze and great difficulty for the people of the area. When will the caution be resolved? Specifically, what is the government going to do to resolve it?

**Mr. Laughren:** Consult Ed Havrot.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** I am sorry, I can't assist the hon. member at this time as to the state of those proceedings. I will make inquiries and report back to the member as soon as possible.

**Mr. Bain:** Thank you. As a supplementary, when the minister reports back, I was wondering if he could clarify a problem that has bothered me greatly? In my contacts with officials of the Ministry of Natural Resources, they told me that the caution was going to be resolved through the courts by the Attorney General's ministry. In my contacts with the Attorney General's ministry officials, they told me the Ministry of Natural Resources was going to resolve it through negotiations. Who is going to resolve it and whose responsibility is it right now?

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** As I indicated before, I will endeavour to have an answer to both these matters for the House as soon as possible.

### LIQUOR LICENCE LEGISLATION

**Mr. Eakins:** Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Can the minister justify the new amendment to the Liquor Licence Act which will permit people to walk down the street or sit on park benches with open bottles of beer or open bottles of liquor as long as they are not caught sipping by the policeman? How can he justify this in the light of the tour around the province by the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) examining the problems of youth and alcohol; and how does he justify this in view of the drinking problems in our provincial parks?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member, of course, was not in this Legislature when those amendments were being debated. They are not as new as he is. Those amendments were brought forward here last year and debated at great length; and they went through committee of the whole. Nobody in his party or the other opposition party moved any amendments to them; they accepted them and voted for them. We think it is good law, and if there are weaknesses in it we are prepared to amend it; but, as far as we are concerned, the amendments that were passed by this Legislature are supportable and they were supported by everybody in the Legislature.

### LOCKOUT AT ITT OSHAWA PLANT

**Mr. Moffatt:** A question of the Minister of Labour: Is the minister aware that a lockout of 225 workers by ITT at its Ontario Malleable Iron plant at Oshawa is in the 11th week and those employees locked out are being denied unemployment insurance and welfare payments? What is the ministry doing in order to correct that situation?

**Mr. Laughren:** What a great company that is.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I will have to confess, Mr. Speaker, that we have not been actively involved in that dispute, but I shall make some investigations in that area.

### TILE DRAINAGE LOANS

**Mr. Riddell:** A question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food; things are a little too quiet over there for me: Would the minister not agree that the ministry's intentions to cut down provincial loans available to farmers for tile drainage installations is in contradiction to the government's Throne Speech

promise to increase productivity of agricultural land?

**Hon. W. Newman:** First, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is making a lot of assumptions. The budget has not been brought in yet, and the hon. member is assuming that certain things will happen that may or may not happen—

**Mr. Nixon:** You have run out of money this year already?

**Mr. S. Smith:** Borrow it from the hospitals.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Let me say that we realize the benefit of tile drainage in parts of this province. We know it extends agricultural production. We know the farmers know how to use it to make their land more productive.

**Mr. Reid:** You have spent \$1 million confirming it.

**Hon. W. Newman:** We are fully aware of the fact there is a need for tile drainage in this province and that there will be a continuing need for tile drainage for many years to come.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** You made Lorne a cabinet minister.

**Hon. W. Newman:** The productivity of agricultural land has doubled in some cases by the use of tile drainage.

**Mr. Nixon:** What about the question?

**Hon. W. Newman:** All I am saying is this: The tile drainage programme will be going further in the coming years.

**Mr. Ruston:** We knew that before.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I believe there is time for a short supplementary.

**Mr. Riddell:** Having said all that—

**Hon. W. Newman:** Doesn't the member agree?

**Mr. Riddell:** I do. But having said all that, will the minister not see that the money available for loans is increased rather than decreased?

**Mr. S. Smith:** That is the question.

**Mr. Roy:** Answer the question.

**Hon. W. Newman:** I think the hon. member will find the answers very shortly when the budget comes in.

**Mr. Speaker:** The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

**Mr. B. Newman,** from the standing procedural affairs committee, presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee has carefully examined the following applications for private Acts and finds the notices as published in each case sufficient: Welland Area YMCA-YWCA, Rancheria Mining Co. Ltd.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motions.

Introduction of bills.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT ACT

**Mr. Leluk** moves first reading of bill intitled, An Act to amend the Public Health Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

**Mr. Leluk:** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to ensure that prescription drugs in liquid form, certain over-the-counter drugs, patent medicines and household chemicals that are for sale in Ontario, will be packaged in child-resistant packages.

#### WELLAND AREA YMCA/YWCA ACT

**Mr. Swart** moves first reading of bill intitled, An Act respecting Welland Area YMCA/YWCA.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

**Mr. Swart:** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide exemption from property tax for the Welland YMCA/YWCA.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

**Clerk of the House:** The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

#### THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

**Mr. Speaker:** I believe the hon. Attorney General has the opportunity to continue his remarks.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. At 6 o'clock last night, I was indicating some



of my concerns in relation to the difficulties of establishing a mutually acceptable definition that's acceptable to the judiciary and to the government with respect to their mutual responsibilities.

**Mr. Speaker:** Could we have a little order in the chamber please? Would you conduct your private conversations elsewhere?  
[3:00]

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** It's a matter of arriving at a mutual agreement and a satisfactory definition of areas of responsibility relating to courts administration. That is the responsibility, of course, of this Legislature and of the judiciary. I indicated at the time of the adjournment that the delay in the disposition of cases in this jurisdiction is not only a chronic problem in our court system but also one which exists in virtually all common law jurisdictions of the world.

I indicated that the current case load crisis was a result of many factors such as population increases; the advent of the automobile; complexities of modern business; growing recognition of individual rights; the continued expansion of the regulatory powers of government; and, of course, the acceptance, and I hope the continuing acceptance, of legal aid as a pillar of our administration of justice.

At the same time I must recognize—and we, as a government, having accepted serious government spending restraints—that it is unlikely there will be substantial increases in spending for the administration of justice in the foreseeable future. The public purse, as we all know, simply cannot meet the demands of every worthy cause, although I'm confident that there will be an increasing percentage of the provincial budget allocated in the ensuing months to the very fundamentally important area of justice.

In any event, I have suggested that we must resolve our case load crisis by reviewing existing procedures with a willingness to innovate and to adapt alternative methods and techniques for effective court administration, while at the same time maintaining public confidence in the independence of the judiciary. My ministry is, therefore, constantly seeking new ways to absorb work load increases within our existing resources, together with the minimum additional resources which will be available.

One of the major challenges, therefore, facing my ministry, is to increase the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the administration of justice. I would like to take but a few moments to relate to members some of

the efforts which are being made in these areas.

Some time ago the whole question of the court system was referred to the Ontario Law Reform Commission which came down with a series of reports and recommendations. One of our responses to the report was to set up a developmental project in an area known as the central west region, which clusters around Hamilton, to test out in practice the feasibility of the Law Reform Commission proposals.

The cornerstone of this project is to apply modern management techniques to the court system under the supervision of a management team of professional administrators. The basic initiatives are being made in the area of case-flow management and, generally, the more effective utilization of human and other resources. The project is developing time targets for the completion of cases and is developing annual case load targets for judges.

The programme involves an increased use of justices of the peace as substitutes for provincial judges in handling pre-trial procedures and disposing of minor matters. The project also involves a rearranging of the business of the criminal courts so that each day, before the regular commencement of the criminal courts, a justice of the peace handles the pre-trial matters which need not be dealt with by a judge.

As the objective is to maximize the effective use of all the resources which we employ in the operation of court offices and other support services, it involves also the standardization of court office procedures and the development of formulae based on case load to provide the basis for staff allocation. It also involves the development of cost accounting techniques to determine the cost effectiveness of various types of court operations as well as an attempt to break down the traditionally rigid and hierarchical structure of court administration to permit the use of court personnel in a variety of functions in different court offices.

For example, it is proposed that court reporters within a particular area be available as a common resource to avoid the possibility of one judge's reporter being idle while another judge's reporter is unable to cope with the work load. Various forms of electronic equipment are being utilized to reduce court attendance and unnecessary transcription by reporters. We are examining the feasibility of doing away with the traditional assignment of a particular courtroom to a particular level of court, to permit the use of courtrooms by any level of court to promote the most effective use of our courtroom space.



Other initiatives now being undertaken include the computerization of court-scheduling activities and the greater use of pre-trial conferences to cut down on the length of trials. I have also established committees to achieve the streamlining of the rules of civil procedure and to review appeal jurisdictions. We are also working on a revision of summary conviction procedures to divert more of the case load out of the formal court structure.

Disparities between how things should be and how things are in practice are now subject to relentless scrutiny via modern modes of communication, as indeed they should be. Today's informed citizen, Mr. Speaker, no longer regards as self-evident the justification for many traditional arrangements that owe more to longevity than they do to the needs and legitimate expectations of the people of Ontario.

**Mr. Roy:** About time you started talking about those things.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** It has been said by the great jurist, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., "Tradition eventually tends to override rational policy." It therefore follows that in order to keep the system by which justice is administered abreast of present and responsive to future requirements, it is incumbent upon the Attorney General for Ontario to ensure that every aspect of that administration is effectively dedicated to the end it serves.

Nevertheless, experience has indicated clearly that the judiciary has a very significant and important role to play in case-flow management. It must never be overlooked that it is the judge presiding in court who has the ultimate right to determine which individual cases shall be heard in that court on any particular day. This is an essential and fundamental premise of our system, because it is only the trial judge who is made aware in open court of all the facts and circumstances relating to a particular issue, and it is only he who can make the judicial determination as to whether or not any particular case is ready for trial and adjudication. It is this decision which will dictate the degree to which we can make effective use of all our resources.

Again, let me say that it is only proper that such a determination rest with the judiciary in order to ensure that the public continues to have an impartial administration of justice.

In result, therefore, many aspects of case-flow management, which is at the very heart of our court administration, must, in my view, remain within the control of the judiciary. The public must recognize that what we

strive for in our system is justice in each individual case. Each case does have its own unique features and points of reference which will dictate whether or not it is ready for trial. This in turn will impact directly on the utilization of resources. In this context, therefore, it is essential to recognize that the authority which controls case-flow management must at the same time play a significant role in all aspects of court administration which relate to case-flow management.

My ministry is currently considering alternative vehicles for the administration of the courts which will recognize the interrelationship between the courts of the province and government, in order to ensure appropriate recognition of the fundamental principles I referred to a moment ago.

**Mr. Cassidy:** You won't crack down on the lawyers, that's the problem; just like the Health Ministry and the doctors.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** As a first step in dealing with our case load crisis, this government has requested the federal government to appoint five Supreme Court and nine county court judges. To save time it must be recognized that the greatest impact—

**Mr. Cassidy:** You won't crack down on the lawyers.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** —of the case load crisis is felt in the provincial courts of this province.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That's right. They are being abused by people who are earning money from the Ontario government.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** We propose, therefore, to appoint 16 additional provincial court judges in the criminal division and 10 additional provincial court judges in the family division. We recognize, however, that this is simply one of many steps which will have to be taken in order to meet the problem of delays in the courts.

We must be prepared to consider changes in basic procedures which cut down the time between the happening of the event and the actual trial of the issue. The recent amendments to the Criminal Code and the Jurors Act will result in the dismantling of the grand jury. Quite frankly, it has always concerned me that a victim of a criminal offence in many cases has had to testify at a preliminary hearing, and then before a grand jury before the matter even comes on for trial.

The traditional concerns of lawyers have been directed largely toward the accused rather than to the victim. While this is under-



standable, it cannot always be justified and it would appear certainly not to be in harmony with the current mood of the public. These amendments will cut some of the fat out of the criminal process but we wonder whether we have cut out enough.

For example, we question whether the whole process of the preliminary inquiry is necessary to serve the interests of the administration of criminal justice as a whole. Members are, perhaps, familiar with the recommendations of the federal Law Reform Commission with respect to eliminating the preliminary inquiry and substituting a fairly elaborate system of pre-trial discovery.

As a former member of the defence bar, I am familiar with the importance of the preliminary inquiry in affording an opportunity for a complete discovery of the Crown's case, which is certainly absolutely essential to the conduct of any case of any accused person before our courts. As the Attorney General, I trust that I shall never overlook the rights of an accused person. However, so long as the accused is given an adequate opportunity to discover the Crown's case, some of the existing elaborate machinery might well be dispensed with.

However, the elimination of the existing machinery of the preliminary inquiry would make little sense if it only means the substitution of an equally elaborate process. I know these concerns are shared by the present federal Minister of Justice and are under careful review by members of his ministry as well.

It is also important to recognize that administrative changes must be accompanied by substantive law reform in order to ensure the effectiveness of our administration of justice. To this end, I will be introducing legislation in this session in relation to estates law and to the matters of children and spouses in property matters as part of our continuing reform of family law.

It has become increasingly clear that the traditional legal concepts governing support obligations and the division of property between spouses needs re-examination in light of major social and economic changes—

Mr. Cassidy: You're damn right.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —which have effected modern family life.

Mr. Cassidy: You have been dragging your feet on it.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: In response to this need for reform, the Ontario Law Reform

Commission undertook a study of the present system of family property law which exists in the province, as well as some alternatives for change. This study, along with the commission's proposals, was presented in a report to the then Attorney General and tabled by him in March, 1974.

Because family law is so fundamental to the community as a whole, the government felt it was absolutely essential to ascertain the views of the public before making any decision on the future of the specific recommendations proposed by the commission.

Public participation in government is a much-touted ideal. However, the realization of this kind of co-operation is very difficult to achieve in a mass society.

Early in April, 1974, the policy development division of the Ministry of the Attorney General began to work on the problem of involving the public in the consideration of the commission's proposals. This undertaking became known as the family property law project. Since the report of the Law Reform Commission consists of almost 500 pages of text, it became clear that the essential problem would be the development of a programme which would offer the public access to the recommendations and an appropriate means of expressing response to them.

[3:15]

To resolve this problem, the ministry through consultation and co-operation with the Ontario Council on the Status of Women and other interested groups, produced a brief summary of the present law and the recommendations of the Ontario Law Reform Commission. Over 35,000 copies of this summary have been distributed. In addition, a film entitled "Family Property Law," was produced and shown to the public in a number of widely-advertised public meetings held throughout the province. Prints of the film have been made available to the media and the public at large. As a result, there has been considerable response to this programme, most of it favourable.

While discussion of the overall approach to be taken to changes in family law was going on, it was apparent that certain existing anomalies should be corrected before awaiting the completion of this large task. As a result, on July 10, 1975, Bill 75, the Family Law Reform Act, was proclaimed in force. It is designed to repair inequities which women have experienced in the past, which result entirely from their marital status. It corrects the familiar Murdoch situations and



also allows spouses to sue one another in tort.

Now that the public has had an opportunity to express its views, the government intends to introduce legislation to rationalize and make consistent the factors a court must consider in adjudicating claims to property and support so that the financial impact of dissolution of marriage through death or marriage breakdown can be dealt with in a comprehensive manner. The government will be bringing forward a bill effecting comprehensive reform of the law of estates as part of the government's continuing programme of family law reform.

The bill which we will bring forward this session has four main themes: First, the equalization of the treatment, in estate matters, of legitimate and illegitimate children; second, the recognition of claims of dependent common law spouses to support survivorship benefits; third, the removal of matrimonial misconduct as an absolute bar to the recognition of property rights; and fourth, a general modernizing of the law of succession to bring it into line with the values and the expectations of the 20th century.

The bill which we will introduce will amend and consolidate in one Act the provisions of the Wills Act, the Devolution of Estates Act, the Dependants' Relief Act and the Survivorship Act.

The provisions relating to intestate succession will entitle the widow to the benefits of the Act without regard to marital misconduct. The distribution of estates will be altered to increase the rights of surviving spouses and to restrict the benefits now accruing to distant relatives. The rules of inheritance under the Act will also be rationalized to eliminate arbitrary and unfair results. The dependants' relief provision will be extended to permit dependants to apply for support when the person on whom they depend has died intestate.

Common law spouses and illegitimate children will be allowed to claim benefits under the Act. The concept of matrimonial misconduct as a bar to an application will be eliminated. The sections relating to wills are largely technical in nature. The government proposes the adoption of two uniform Acts to bring Ontario law in line with the law of other jurisdictions. An important consequence of the adoption of the new legislation is the recognition of two new forms of will, the holograph will and the international will.

Under the existing Survivorship Act, the rules often result in a windfall in favour of the descendants of one family member where

that family member died in a common disaster with others in the same family. The new survivorship provisions will allow the property of the deceased family members to be distributed separately to the beneficiaries of each.

In addition, the legislation will remove inequities and anomalies which now result in the application of different rules under several statutes to determine whether common law spouse and illegitimate children are entitled to benefits which are available to a deceased person's family or dependants. In particular, illegitimate children of the deceased person will be entitled to exactly the same rights as legitimate children.

With respect to marriage breakdown I expect to be introducing legislation which will allow the spouses to have all outstanding issues of property, support and custody dealt with in one action, if they so desire. The principal reforms to be undertaken will relate to the following matters: 1. Division of assets on marriage breakdown; 2. Support obligations of each spouse; 3. Rights of the parties in relation to the matrimonial home; 4. Rules regulating marriage contracts.

**Mr. Roy:** Why don't you set up one family court?

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I anticipate that the legislation and the initiatives which I have outlined will produce some vigorous discussion and debate on all sides of the House. I welcome the contribution of all members of the Legislature in relation to these matters which are all so essential to maintaining the public's respect and confidence and support for the administration of justice in this province.

**Mr. Roy:** Mr. Speaker, would you allow me to ask the minister a question about the introduction of this legislation—when the reforms might come about?

**Mr. Speaker:** As long as it is brief.

**Mr. Roy:** It is very brief. Realizing that different bills are required to accomplish some of the things the minister has been talking about, when can we expect to see this legislation?

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** I would certainly anticipate that the legislation will be introduced this spring. I am sorry I can't be more specific than that.

**Mr. Roy:** In a month? Two months?

**Mr. Moffatt:** I gather that it is appropriate to congratulate the Speaker and I certainly



would like to congratulate the Speaker on the performance of his duty and so on. I think all of the members of the House have praised your activities and obviously the praise is deserved.

I would also, at this time Mr. Speaker, like to congratulate the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) for the remarks he has just made. I have no connection with the law, other than to try to remain within it from time to time, and it seems to me that law proceedings in this province have indeed suffered from a proliferation of too many legal minds which affirm that the only people who know anything about law, or could in fact have any input, would be lawyers. I welcome the comments the Attorney General made with regard to the general public as well, because from my own experience over the past six months there have been many items which have involved his ministry which have had solutions proposed by lawyers which have been far too convoluted to really get through to the ordinary person the way they might. So I welcome the comments the Attorney General made this afternoon. I hope, as I am sure all members do, we will see the legislation shortly.

I want to deal with three or four items. I would like to start with two days of Throne Speech debate and comments that were made by the former leader of the Liberal Party and by one of the members of that party yesterday. I would like to use the two comments that take us back to last August, because I think what is happening within that party and within the electorate at large is something that all of us should view with some degree of alarm.

What I refer to is the very good comment made by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) in which he tried to solve the dilemma that I think all members of the House are faced with when dealing with the question of how to deal with alcohol consumption by young people. Every person has some difficulty in coming up with ready answers and I noted the difficulty with which the member tried to get to some kind of possible solution to that problem.

He ended his search for a solution by saying that what we probably need is really to deal with this whole question in educational terms, and to try in the schools to have some way of making people aware of the dangers of the abuse and misuse of alcohol. I think a lot of people feel that is a good position to take.

However, the next day—and I think probably two or three speakers from that same party later—we had a member stand and

really say that the problem in the schools is the fact that we have too many frills, too many courses, and obviously courses such as the one that the former leader of that party was talking about. That's exactly what's happening in the community with regard to education.

A number of people feel that some glib and facile statement about the three Rs will perhaps solve all of the problems. Somewhere along the line the teachers have all done the wrong thing by attempting to follow the directions of the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells). Everyone then comes along and throws rocks at the teachers and at the system for attempting to do what society asked it to do. I don't think we can have this equivocation take place much longer.

**Mr. Laughren:** The Liberals can.

**Mr. Moffatt:** The Liberals perhaps can, I agree. It seems to me that what happened in last fall's election, though, when those kinds of statements were made, did more to hurt the educational system than it did to throw kind of the light of darkness—if you will—on education such as we haven't seen for 25 years. Those people are now saying that we should immediately get rid of all the courses in schools which have brought some people who, before, were disadvantaged to a place where they thought that school at least meant something. Some young people in high school particularly were able to have something to look forward to in their day.

When we hear that kind of statement made—that those courses should be taken away immediately in order to save money or whatever—I suspect those kinds of statements will cause grave problems in the future. That's the kind of rhetoric which led to the present mood of restraint by the government. The government, in reacting to the claims of the Liberal Party during the election, I think has over-reacted and has gone beyond the bounds of common sense.

We see areas where logical programmes have been implemented by various regions and various local municipal governments, encouraged and aided by previous provincial governments. Those programmes are now being terminated and the termination is caused because the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) or various other ministers will write a letter to the local regional people and say, "We have implemented this programme on an experimental basis over the last few years. It is a good programme and it works well; the people obviously enjoy it. Therefore, since it's such a good programme you, obviously, as the local



municipality, will enjoy carrying it on and paying for it yourself."

I submit to the House that that's an entirely ludicrous situation to have in the Province of Ontario. Certainly there are areas where moneys could be saved but that's false economy and it serves no purpose other than some crass political purpose.

I would like to refer to other crass political purposes briefly. I would like to quote from a letter which I received from a group of people in eastern Ontario. The letter was addressed to the Premier (Mr. Davis). Copies were sent to various ministers and a copy was sent, legitimately by the writers, to me. It's dated March 15, and the letter comes from Brighton. It's a gathering of the people who work, who are farmers, who have various cash crops in our area. They quote a statement made on Sept. 9, at Ridgetown, Ont.:

I propose to introduce an income tax rebate policy for any person employed on a seasonal basis in the harvesting of agricultural crops. Thus, anyone so engaged in seasonal work on the farm could claim a tax rebate representing his or her provincial income tax payable. The more income the worker earns, the longer the period of his employment, the greater the rebate which could amount to as much as \$150 for a full season's work.

Additionally, we would propose to the federal government that as a matter of national policy it extend a \$1,000 tax exemption to any Canadian engaged in seasonal work on the farm. But whether or not the government of Canada responds to this, the government of Ontario is prepared to rebate its share of provincial tax to those who are seasonally employed in agriculture.

The statement was made by the Premier at Ridgetown in September.

Last week when the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) asked the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) what had happened with that programme—he had to ask because there was no mention of that programme or of that speech or anything like it in the Speech from the Throne—the Minister of Agriculture and Food in response to the member for York South, said, "That's an interesting proposal. We're still working on it and it is going to take some study."

[3:30]

If it gets the kind of study which we have seen in the past with that kind of proposal, it will never happen. It's a false and a biased use of the electoral politics by the Premier

to try to make people believe that when he says something, he really means it. I wish the Premier were here now, so that he could either confirm or deny that they are going to go ahead with that statement.

**Mr. Laughren:** Perhaps the Speaker could tell him.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Perhaps the Speaker could tell him? I think maybe the Speaker has other things to do. Perhaps the Premier has other things to do as well. He doesn't seem to be here.

I want to deal as well with a situation which, during the last session, was of great consequence to people in the Legislature and to people in my riding and in eastern Ontario generally. I refer to the problem in Port Hope, where over a number of years the Atomic Energy Control Board, a federal agency, failed dismally to carry out its mandate and failed dismally to enforce the law which is part of the law of Canada, which requires it to post and control the use of materials which have been contaminated by radioactivity.

This situation in Port Hope has, at the very least, turned Port Hope into an area where people no longer want to live or to work, and we find extreme problems faced by homeowners and by people in small businesses in Port Hope because of the cavalier treatment by the Atomic Energy Control Board of the people in that area.

I'm sure all members are reasonably familiar with the situation, where emissions of radon gas from radium which was improperly handled has managed to contaminate the air in various homes, in schools, and in some cases businesses in the town of Port Hope. What made this particularly miserable was the behaviour of the Atomic Energy Control Board, which really felt there was no problem and convinced the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) that there was no problem. The Minister of Health—unwisely, as it has turned out—believed the Atomic Energy Control Board and his own people when they told him that the problem was not serious and would go away.

Over the next several weeks after the initial problem arose, the minister had to retreat from that statement and we now have the situation where the Ministry of Health is very carefully watching the Atomic Energy Control Board, because I detect from the acting Minister of Health's (B. Stephenson) statement this afternoon that it's just possible that they don't really believe the Atomic Energy Control Board gives a full and adequate disclosure of facts at any time.



I don't think, though, it's enough to stop and say we have detected a problem in Port Hope and there needs to be a cleanup. It seems to me a great deal more needs to be done in Port Hope, and, as a result, on March 2 I wrote a letter to the Premier (Mr. Davis) in which I suggested to him that he read a report which was at least partially funded by the previous government and which was carried out in 1973 and 1974, called "Inter-Design," in which industrial designers and planners from all over the world met in the town of Port Hope and Cobourg and attempted, as a theoretical exercise, to plan the most expedient use and development of that particular area, keeping in mind the needs of the people, the topography, the geography, the industrial potential and so on. It was an expensive and exhausting procedure. It went on for 1½ months and the exercise was concluded by the publishing of a document by Macmillan and Co. It's a major publication, it was funded by the Ministry of Industry and Tourism and it dealt, as I said, in a theoretical way with the towns of Port Hope and Cobourg.

Oddly enough, since the situation with the radiation exposure occurred in Port Hope, the theory is no longer only a theory, but the report now bears some real looking at in order to find solutions to the present problem. In my letter to the Premier, what I requested that he do was to dust off that report, which obviously must be lying around in somebody's office—I know one copy is in my office—and have some person from the various ministries responsible read the report and then work with the towns of Port Hope and Cobourg in order to implement some of the recommendations of that report, which, as I say, were made in advance of this present problem.

I am a little bit sad to say to you, Mr. Speaker, that either my letter didn't get to the Premier, or he can't read it or hasn't read it, because I have received no answer at all—not even an acknowledgement. As a result of not having received an acknowledgement, I sent a further letter to the Premier in which I asked if anything had been done and I sent him a copy of another proposal for the Port Hope situation. In this letter, I simply said:

Further to my appeal of March 2, I am enclosing a series of recommendations made by the citizens of Port Hope in the Pigeon Hill area, which is one of the areas most affected by radiation.

I really can't understand why at least a letter could not be sent back to say, "We are investigating it," or, "Go away, your proposal makes no sense," or, "Yes, we will do it," or

something. It's as though one were talking to a marshmallow. You say things and the dust seems to move; then it settles very nicely back and the marshmallow remains as before.

**Mr. Laughren:** The benevolent marshmallow.

**Mr. Moffatt:** That's probably what it is. I'm not sure how benevolent it is either; it may be a malevolent marshmallow. Actually, I like "malevolent marshmallow" better; there's a certain alliteration there that makes sense.

**Mr. Speaker,** I also want to make sure that one of the pieces of legislation, which was announced in the Throne Speech as being on the way, really gets some consideration on the basis of what has happened in the past. I refer to the announcement in the Throne Speech that we are going to have, at long last in this most progressive of provinces, a system whereby homeowners will be protected from shady and unscrupulous business people by a warranty programme. That legislation, if indeed it comes in, is long overdue.

**Mr. Speaker,** I want to display for your edification a collection of letters which I received from one small street in the town of Bowmanville. The street is named Vanstone Ct., and it has 82 houses on it. All of the houses are less than a year old, all of them were built by the same person, and every one of them has significant defects that would, in a lot of cases, require that the houses be declared unsafe.

In one case, in one particular house, the driveway is built on the side of the house opposite to the garage and the builder refuses to correct it. That is a significant error, it is the kind of error that I didn't believe—

**Mr. Davison:** That's rather obvious.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** That's perverse.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Oddly enough, it is not as obvious as you might expect because it hasn't been corrected yet.

These letters—each one is a separate letter from a different person on Vanstone Ct. in Bowmanville—document such things as the previously misplaced driveway or garage; I don't know which one was constructed inappropriately.

They document areas where a house was built 4 ft higher than it should have been, and the people can't get their car into the garage from the street without putting some kind of grappling device at the front of the garage and winching the car in.



They document things such as a hole in the plaster in one of the bedrooms. I thought that when a person said "hole in the plaster" it meant that you could see into the insulation under the window. I was surprised when I went to the house, because the hole in the plaster is not just a hole in the plaster; it is a hole in the plaster of about 6 in. x 4 in. and it is a hole in the insulation and a hole in the metal cladding outside. It is also so completely open that birds can fly in and out of this room.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** It is really meant for Santa Claus, you know.

**Mr. Moffatt:** The price of this house was \$52,000.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** How much without the hole?

**Mr. Moffatt:** The hole added significantly to the ventilation, I might add. With the hole, it was \$52,000. I don't know what it would be, in answer to the hon. member, without the hole; it might be \$75,000 at today's prices.

The list of defects in these houses goes on and on. In one instance, the people moved in. They had bought a house. The typical way of buying a home today is that you go to the open house and see a display model. These people had bought the display model in July and the house would be constructed on lot number so-and-so three or four months later. They signed the agreement to purchase. They put down significant funds. They then waited until the builder told them that their completion date had arrived and so on. They were to move in some time about Oct. 15.

When they went to move in, they had to terminate the lease in the apartment they were living in, so the apartment was rented to someone else. They attempted to move in, went to the house and, lo and behold, the house wasn't even half-ready to move in. It hadn't been plastered. The electrical fixtures were not installed. It was not suitable for habitation. They had already cancelled the lease on their apartment. What were they to do? What they have to do is they have to back up the whole process. They refused to vacate the apartment. They forced the landlord to get a court order to evict them. That takes about 14 or 15 days. The landlord then has to back up the other people who have already contracted to rent the apartment. In the meantime, the people can't move into the house. Where is all this going?

After all of these people had written to me, I went to talk to them. I brought all of their

letters in—and these are only copies because all of the letters are in the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I have the most amazing story to report about that ministry because what happens when you send a letter to that minister, he says "Thank you very much for your documentation on this particular problem. I assure you that the people in our ministry will investigate immediately." They investigate.

Do you know what they did, Mr. Speaker? Three weeks later, one of the people from that ministry went to the builder and asked him what had been done. The builder said: "Oh, well, we are fixing up the problem and as soon as it is corrected, we will report to you." That's what the builder told the inspector. The inspector came back and told the minister and the minister told me, expecting that that would placate and satisfy the people who live on Vanstone Ct.

Now what kind of activity is that for a Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations? That's not activity at all. That's just passive reliance on the problem going away. That's the problem with that ministry. It does not do what it says it will do. It does not even live up to its own mandate. It simply sits there and hopes that problems will go away and, if people get sick of complaining that maybe—just maybe—they will not bother calling the minister's office any more. But these people in Vanstone Ct. haven't done that. Every time there's a new problem, they simply write to the minister. They phone the minister's office. I am sure that he is getting sick and tired of the words "Vanstone Ct."

I know the people who live there are sick and tired of the problem. The unfortunate thing is that it is now four to five months since the ministry was first notified and nothing has happened. We still get letters saying: "These things are still a problem." We still send them to the minister and still nothing happens. What should have happened is that the people who are in that particular ministry who have the responsibility, who are charged with the responsibility, should have gone to those people in Bowmanville, looked at the defects, ascertained whether they were verified or not or whether they should have something done, and then ordered the builder on penalty of a fine or taking away his licence or whatever, that the problem should be made better, that the defects should be rectified.

One of the things that hasn't worked for these people is going back to their lawyer and saying: "We bought the house and the house isn't properly fixed," because the lawyers really can't act on it—either can't or



won't. In all cases we have found that the legal processes here are so long and involved that the people either have to fix the defects themselves and then try to recover the cost from the builder, which is a long and involved process, or they have to put up with it. In most cases, the people have just simply given up, their houses are for sale and they are trying to move out.

All of these people are young families. They all have small children and, in most cases, it has been their first experience in trying to purchase a home. I am glad to see the Attorney General is here. I submit that that kind of experience does more to break down the kind of legislation that his ministry and others are attempting to put forward. Those people have no confidence now at all in the fact that the law ever works for the ordinary working person. They think that the law is devised and it is put in place and made to work only on behalf of the developers and the big businessmen. When one hears that comment made over and over again—

[3:45]

**Mr. Laughren:** You are right.

**Mr. Moffatt:** —one begins to believe it oneself.

**Mr. Laughren:** Of course.

**Mr. Moffatt:** One says, "What is wrong?" One brings the problem to this House which, to most people in Ontario, is supposed to be a last resort, a place where you can finally get something done, and nothing happens.

I am just appalled at the way the whole problem of homeowners' warranties has been allowed to slide. I really hope the minister is sincere and is going to bring legislation into this House which will really do something to protect the consumer.

It seems to me that the legislation should take as its first premise that the consumer is right and that the builder must prove that he has done what the law requires. I know that's a convoluted way it works now. The way the situation is now, the consumer is supposed to be wrong except when the builder can be proved to be wrong by the consumer. This leaves a whole area of contested cases going through these courts which really is expensive and, I suspect, clogs up the courts with a great many cases which should not be there.

One final thing I wanted to mention was that if we are going to make this kind of legislation work, one of the areas where the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) perhaps can do a great service to the people in this

province is to update the small claims court, and to make sure that the level at which the small claims court can function is raised to be kept in line with current living standards. The limit on a case which can be taken to those courts now is, I gather, \$400 and that has been so for a number of years. Members may find this hard to believe but a judge phoned me—

**Mr. Bullbrook:** That's pretty good advice.

**Mr. Moffatt:** —and said that should be changed. I expect that will happen very shortly and it will be tied somehow to the cost of living or the cost of the kinds of things which go through those courts.

Also, I would ask and urge that, if at all possible, the small claims courts which exist in small towns be kept open if it means—and I suggest it does mean—that the people who are employees of those courts, instead of being on a fee-for-service basis, be made civil servants. Instead of going around and trying to drum up business and getting the various finance companies to come to them with their claims in order to keep a small claims court open those courts should be made impartial and put on an employee of the government basis, rather than a fee-for-service basis.

It's been a pleasure this afternoon to share some of the problems I faced in my first six months after my election in September. I simply hope we can continue to work toward legislation for consumers, particularly, which places the onus on the business community to do the right thing and, when it does not, allows the consumer to have first recourse rather than the other way around.

**Mr. Ruston:** I would like to join in this debate at this time and speak on a few concerns which are facing people in Ontario and, of course, in the riding I represent. I think a person in this House must, of course, always consider the province as well. It is awfully easy to get up and say we have certain problems in our own ridings but I have always felt very strongly—I guess it's the way I was brought up—that if one part of the province is in bad financial straits or has high unemployment it's not good for the rest of us in the other parts of the province because maybe then we can't manufacture the goods and they don't have the money to buy them.

It's the same as being a Canadian first. I think if we have poverty in one province to a very high degree it reflects on the rest of us and I think it should be upon all of us



to take steps to right this throughout the whole country. I don't think we can have what we classify as generally full employment without having it throughout the whole of Canada.

I suppose we could look at Alberta and see the situation they're in with their great oil income—the funds they are collecting in taxes and royalties and so forth. They are sitting in an exceptionally good financial position. However, since it is a commodity that will run out, I suppose they are trying to get everything they can now to protect themselves in case it does run out in the next 10 or 15 years.

I would suppose though that if that situation comes and we're still affluent—I don't know if we will be with the price we're paying for their natural gas and oil, but if we are and they are a little down, they will be looking for assistance from us. I don't know if we're getting that much from them. Maybe in the past we have kept our natural resources pretty well within the province, although no doubt much of the profit went out of the country.

The contents of the Throne Speech and the government's actions over the past few months have been of great concern to many people. I suppose that hospital closings and so forth, cuts in Children's Aid Societies, and cuts in social services affect most everybody in Ontario.

In our own area, of course, we've had cut-backs in hospital beds. I had someone call me 10 days ago; a man called me and said he couldn't get his wife in the hospital because there wasn't any room. When I called the hospital administrator to find out what the situation was, he said: "That's right, we have no vacancies right now." It so happened that she did get in within 10 days; I think there was some damage done because she wasn't in on time.

That reflects on what the government is doing. I don't think it is planning or knows what it's doing. I think myself that after the Henderson-McKeough report they wanted to come out in shining armour as people going to save the taxpayers money. What they were looking for was publicity more than anything else.

I think it was a gimmick really because within the first six months or less they will probably save somewhere in the vicinity of \$10 million, so they claim, in that particular area. That's not very much when you figure an overall budget of \$11 billion. It's not very

much even when you figure what we have lying around from Wintario funds.

So what I'm saying is that I don't think the cutting of hospital beds and the cutting of social services, in the way they are doing it, is really well planned. I think it was well planned to achieve what they had in mind and that was to gain publicity with the average taxpayer—trying to let on to the taxpayers of Ontario that "We're the savers. We're going to save your money. We're the people responsible." Well, heaven help us. They were those people who were so irresponsible for the last five years. You couldn't get them more irresponsible.

It's a funny thing, just last year we had a little problem with the car industry in Windsor and Oshawa and different areas and many of the cities had representations to the government to cut the sales tax on cars. Well, they cut it on everything from seven to five per cent in April, but then in July they decided to take the sales tax off automobiles.

I happen to be connected in the automobile industry as far as my family and my friends go, and they have been quite fortunate in having good employment in the area since they've been there. A young chap I was talking to, who was an automobile salesman, said, "We're selling cars, but when you go where the people are making them, last summer and last spring you'd find they weren't being made in Canada." The trouble was in the United States. The Chrysler plant in Windsor, for instance, makes 1,100 cars a day and only 160 of them are for Canadian use. If they can't sell automobiles in the United States, naturally we have some unemployment.

What the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) did was take the tax off cars and say, "That will be great." But the silly thing was that he should have made the regulations so that when you sold the car, you didn't collect the sales tax. He didn't want it that way. He wanted to get that cheque back to the guy who bought the car about a month after he bought it and say, "This is Bill Davis and Darcy McKeough with the \$200, \$300 or \$400 and trying to help you along. Maybe you can go on a little vacation. You probably have the financing all arranged now so this will be something a little extra." This is the cynical part of it—that this is what they were working on. There were a lot of cars sold in Ontario, but if we look at the record for all of Canada, there were more cars sold in all of Canada than before anyway, so in Montreal, Quebec and the western provinces the automobile industry was very affluent in



Canada last year. But the key part of it was the Treasurer taking the tax off then cutting down the money for municipalities this year. The mayor of Windsor comes down and says, "Gee, you've got to give us more money." Darcy says, "Gee, we cut the sales tax off cars and we took \$300 million less in sales tax. You're going to have to raise your own taxes now."

He went in a complete circle. He took it away from one time and gave it another time, but that was all just a cynical part of an election year. The Treasurer and the Premier (Mr. Davis) are the two responsible. It's not anyone else. As far as the rest of the fellows over there—well, the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman)—

**Mr. Spence:** He's not too bad a fellow.

**Mr. Ruston:** —sitting there; he's a pretty good fellow.

**Mr. Spence:** You're not too bad.

**Mr. Nixon:** He didn't even know what was going on.

**Mr. Ruston:** But that man from Chatham-Kent—

**Mr. Bullbrook:** It's not Auld's fault. It's that fellow Darcy.

**Mr. Ruston:** The hon. member for Chatham-Kent and the Premier are responsible. Of course, the Treasurer before that—I could call him now a lunatic from London—talked of putting on your sweater and putting a seven per cent tax on heat, and our party got wind of it and voted against that bill on the first reading, caused an uproar and they took it off. Although some people say they were cynical then—that they were putting that on, intending to take it off, and at that time they raised the sales tax from five to seven per cent.

It gets so that one doesn't trust very much people in government who operate that way. The public loses respect for them because of that type of dealing. They just can't accept that.

With regard to the hospital in Paris—and I'm not interfering with the former leader of our party—the day that closure was announced I got a telephone call from a man in my riding who had a close friend—I think it was a brother—in the hospital. He asked, "Where is this man going to go?" I was home at the time, and, with our office here in Toronto having a very alert secretary, got hold of people in the hospital in St. Mary's in the same day and we ended up talking to the

mayor of St. Mary's. I understand there were 67 people in the hospital that day, registered in the hospital, a 61-bed hospital, and they're going to close it.

If I have a bus and I've got a bus route running someplace and I've got full capacity on it every day, I'm not going to close that bus line down. If there's something wrong it's wrong someplace else, it's not right there that something's wrong.

**Mr. Spence:** Right. Good boy.

**Mr. Ruston:** As far as the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) going around, he had a meeting in Windsor and he talked about cutbacks. One of the welfare administrators from one of the counties—I'm not sure which it was; Lambton, Kent and Essex counties and the city of Windsor were represented—asked: "We have some new regulations coming out with regard to unemployment insurance which may be a little stricter. We may have a reflection of that on the welfare rolls, and if my welfare rolls go higher than they did the year before, if I have an extra 100 people come in and demand care—and under the Act I have to give them this care; after all, I can't allow people to go hungry—are you telling me that I've got to restrict my budget to 5½ per cent?"

The minister hummed and hawed in his usual way. He danced around some but he said, in effect, "Yes, that's right." That's not satisfactory at all.

The point that really hits me, the way I have read it anyway over the past few months, is that what this government was trying to do was to get back into the good graces of the people of Ontario for making a mess of the financial conditions with their high deficit.

I can go back to a few years ago when I had a conversation with a man who ran for office in Essex county as a Conservative—he was on the Ontario Water Resources Commission at that time, and he was defeated; but however that's all right, everybody has his ups and downs—a very good businessman in that area, Mr. Bill Conklin. After I got nominated, I was talking to him one day—in fact, I think he called me the next day to congratulate me on winning—and he said, "You know, there's one thing governments must do in financing—never have a big deficit when times are pretty good. Our job in government is to see that when times are tough we have money available to put into the economy and get it moving." But this government—or Ontario—over the last five years has had pretty good times running the highest deficit we ever had.

[4:00]

So now we are having a borrowing problem with these people in New York and different places who are lending us money and talking about changes. I see the city of Detroit which used to have a class A rating has been put into a 3B. That's one of the rating groups of Standard and Poors in the United States.

We know from what's going on in some of the meetings of the select committee on Ontario Hydro that there have been rumours and warnings that if our budget deficit continues at the rate it's going—20 per cent of our expenditures—we could be in a similar position. This shows the mismanagement this government has had over the past five years.

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Ruston, you would be a good Treasurer.

**Mr. Spence:** That's right.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Because you are a penny-pincher.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** How can you ever draw that conclusion?

**Mr. Kennedy:** Triple A rating member.

**Mr. Ruston:** Mr. Speaker, I don't think I'll answer with any more remarks with regard to that interjection.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Last year he gave it to 16.

**Mr. Ruston:** But 20 had the same job probably.

On a more serious note—I have some other things later but I have kind of an order here. There's one thing I spoke on a few years ago—I think once or maybe twice—about the appointment of judges and so forth and our judicial system in Canada and Ontario. Of course, being a dropout from very low grades I don't pretend to know much about the legal system and so forth. I have read considerably about it and my wife always told me I should have been a lawyer. I have said, "It's great training that a lawyer gets" and I think of the member for Sarnia, sitting in front of me; what a capable man he is in his field and in this area, too.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I take that back. He is not a penny-pincher.

**Mr. Nixon:** He got his PhD in common sense.

**Mr. Ruston:** I am sure that anything I say in the next few minutes with regard to our court system will not reflect on what the member for Sarnia might be if he was in that position.

**Mr. Spence:** That's right.

**Mr. Ruston:** What I'm getting at is not the position itself but the method of how we handle it and how we make the appointments. I don't think the method of appointing our judges in the provincial courts and in the county courts and all the way up is really satisfactory. I don't think that we can accept it any more, in my opinion, because there are too many areas which I think can be abused.

I certainly don't want to go to the way they have it in the United States—I have mentioned this before—by which judges have to be elected. I suppose at a time like this the hanging judges would get elected, if that's the sentiment of the public, and so forth and we don't want that.

I think what we have to do is something similar to what they have in the United States where they appoint people to the Supreme Court. When an appointment is made, they go before a committee of the Congress and that committee has the right to interrogate them and find out their ability and so forth. In that way I think we would have an input into it.

Mind you, I would suppose that the judges who are appointed do the best they can under our laws and maybe our laws aren't all—there's no doubt they are not all perfect either. We, as legislators, do what we think is right in passing laws but maybe we don't always get them just perfect.

I think that when we have what just recently happened—the judge's case in Ottawa and in Quebec—we've been reading a number of articles on that. The last article I read, or one of the last, was in the Globe and Mail just a week or two ago—the date's here—on the judge's affair and the crackerjack lawyer who plays the clown, Mr. Holden, and Justice Kenneth Mackay. I read that article in the Globe, last Saturday, by Richard Cleroux. In fact, I read it twice, I guess. Then I handed it to my wife and I said, "You read that," and to my son who is only in grade 12 in school. They just didn't think that was the way things could happen in our court system. And then we see where Judge Mackay hired Mr. Holden, a former partner to prosecute. Then he couldn't get his \$20,000 paid, and sent the bill to the government.

There are too many political connections, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we can accept any more. I feel very deeply about this. I'm not sure what the answer is, but I think that if there is an appointment to be made it should be recommended possibly by the bar associa-



tion. I think they should make the recommendation. The Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) would then bring them to the justice committee of the Ontario Legislature if they are a provincial appointee, and similarly in the federal.

I think that would clear the air when the appointments are made. I think people would respect it from then on. I really think that's a very important part of clearing any doubt about how our judicial system works.

Hydro rates and so forth, Mr. Speaker, have been of some concern to many of us. We have, in Windsor, a small steam generating plant that's been operating for 25 years. Ontario Hydro has seen fit to close it down as of April 30. That worries many of us in the area. It is a generating plant that could supply the area in case of emergency, such as storms or other catastrophes.

We realize it is more expensive to produce this hydro than other power but, at the same time, they're building a new power line through prime agricultural land. They are tearing down farm buildings, cutting right through some of the choicest land in Kent County, through the riding of Kent-Elgin, through very choice land in Raleigh township, and through Essex county some of the high production land in Ontario. They've got most of the route bought now. They did that within the last year and a half.

Now, they come along and close an electric power plant in Windsor, and this new power line is to supply power to Windsor.

The average layman wonders what this means. You spend millions of dollars on new power lines and the government comes out and says it is going to save \$6 million by closing the power plant. Why wouldn't you use the power plant and forget about the power line? It just seems logical.

I've been writing letters to the chairman of Hydro and the Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell). So far I haven't gotten much of an answer. I got one letter back from the chairman of Hydro. He didn't answer half of my letter so I had to return it and ask him to answer the most important parts about the amount of power produced, the cost of the line, and so forth. I don't know whether it went over them too fast but they didn't answer my letter.

These are the things that make us wonder how you're operating. It seems like you want headlines to say you're saving money but, you know, there's really no depth in it to show and prove that you're really saving anything. The headlines say you're saving money but, really, you're not proving that you are.

**Mr. Laughren:** They're backing off. Taylor is backing off.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** We're taking a lot of flak.

**Mr. Ruston:** Well, that's another thing. Someone says he's backing off, and that's what I say. I don't trust the fellas over there. They've already closed about four hospitals. Now the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor), is saying to the Children's Aid Societies that no child shall go without help. Isn't that what you said?

**Mr. Laughren:** Double talk.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** They will never suffer. I have always said that.

**Mr. Ruston:** They will never suffer. Well, there again, I think he was looking for a headline. Probably before the year is out he'll realize he'll have to come and see that these things are taken care of.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** There, the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell) is saying they suffer. She wants us to spend more money.

**Mr. B. Newman:** One meal every second day instead of meals every day.

**Mr. Shore:** Something like essential services.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

**Mr. Ruston:** Mr. Speaker, we're all concerned about the power rates and the natural gas prices in our area and in Ontario. They've gone up considerably, as everybody is aware. We get people sending us a gas bill and where a year ago it was \$35 or \$40, now it's \$70 or \$75. No one seems to want to take the responsibility.

Maybe someone will send a letter to someone in Ottawa and they'll say, well, natural gas rates are controlled by the Ontario Energy Board. Of course, the Ontario Energy Board only approves natural gas rates along with TransCanada Pipe Lines. The general policy of the federal government is to increase natural gas and oil prices to the world market price. This is pretty hard to accept, so we are ending up with much higher heating bills in Ontario.

Of course if we had hindsight, we could say natural gas is cheap. We build houses and never worry too much about making sure they are properly insulated. We have a new building code now that says you have to have a much higher maximum insulation in homes

than it was a few years ago. These are areas we are certainly going to have to cover—better insulated homes, better insulated buildings.

But this world price of oil and gas seems to be an area that we can't accept. I suppose there again it is a Canada-wide situation. People in the western provinces are paying \$13.00 a barrel for oil and Alberta is paying \$8.00—and what you do for the in between becomes a federal responsibility. I certainly don't agree that it will have to come up to world price—especially at the rate they are going. Maybe we could all accept it at an annual percentage—five or 10 per cent a year—and eventually get to it. Maybe part of the problem is that we are going too high too fast. The Premier of Alberta, of course, is pushing this all the time.

**Mr. Laughren:** When you Liberals get together it is a bad act.

**Mr. Ruston:** I don't know. Maybe we will separate. They have their responsibilities and we have ours. Hearing the NDP speak, there is one free enterpriser and then another guy gets up and says the government should take it over. Another one gets up and says the company should sell it to private industry, and you are not sure what they are all talking about.

It is the same with the AIB. Now they are not—

**Mr. Makarchuk:** We are not hung up on ideology like you guys are.

**Mr. Ruston:** They have this problem with wage and price controls or guidelines and so forth. There is this problem in Windsor in the automobile industry this fall where we are going to have new contracts coming up. The union accepted a three per cent increase over each year—which means \$1.03 an hour for a man working in a factory. Now they are saying, "We are not going to pay any attention to the AIB in Ottawa". We have a contract to make with the United States.

I was figuring with one of the chaps that works in there the other day—and in my interpretation of the AIB, our wage guidelines actually are higher than most settlements made in the United States. Now they are wondering if maybe our guidelines allow a higher rate than what they are even going to be offered in the United States.

**Mr. Laughren:** What is your point?

**Mr. Ruston:** The point is that the prices offered in the United States in most settle-

ments have been less than what our maximum allowed under the guidelines.

**Mr. Good:** And you won't accept the guidelines.

**Mr. Ruston:** You say you won't accept the guidelines and yet you accept them in the United States.

**Mr. Moffatt:** But they lose their cost of living.

**Mr. Laughren:** No provincial Liberal can accuse anybody else of flip-flopping.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Are you accepting the guidelines now?

**Mr. Ruston:** We always have accepted the laws of Canada until they are changed by election. If the people want them changed, we will change them and I accept the election results as to what happens. I accept whatever happens in any election.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** He accepts his very happily every time, I will tell you. Goodness gracious, his majority keeps going up all the time.

**Mr. Ruston:** Mr. Speaker, I am getting a little away from what I was discussing I think.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** You were right on.

**Mr. Ruston:** Anyway as has been mentioned in the House, we have a strike in the city of Windsor. It doesn't affect my own area—actually the majority of people in my area go to Essex county and the teachers teach with the Essex county board of education. They settled their negotiations without a strike, but the city of Windsor is now in its third strike in four years. That is of great concern to many people because they don't know when the next one is coming. In Kent county the board and the teachers agreed to go to arbitration and they are all back to work now.

[4:15]

I think there is something that all of us are going to be facing eventually before too long. Even some of the teachers are starting to wonder whether we shouldn't have province-wide negotiations. I see that in Manitoba the teachers at their meeting turned down the right to strike. I don't mind about the right to strike and it wouldn't matter to me if you



had it in there or not, but I think province-wide negotiations are not all that bad.

In fact, if everybody would have had the same rates that Windsor settled for a year ago, they would have all been really happy. That was the highest, I guess, or one of the highest. Now they are trying to take some of it away from them and that's something you can't do. How they have straightened it out is hard to tell because of the different reports you get from the board and the teachers. As a negotiator, you can't settle a contract in 1974 and then come back the next year and say: "We gave you too much last year." You just don't do that. If you made a mistake last year, you accept it and go on from there. I don't think you can do anything else in that case.

I would think that province-wide negotiations are something that are going to have to be considered. I don't know if there is anything all that wrong with them. If you work for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications as an engineer and if you have the same qualifications as other engineers, whether you are in Windsor or in North Bay or Ottawa, you get the same price. There is nothing wrong with that.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Yes.

**Mr. Ruston:** I was a customs officer for the federal government for a number of years and I got the same pay in Windsor as a man here in Toronto or Montreal did or wherever it was, and I don't see anything wrong with that at all. You might say different areas cost more to live in. They don't go by that in the civil service, and companies pretty well pay their people the same rate of pay for the same job whether in Toronto or Windsor. If you have an area like northern Ontario, I could certainly say that what we should be doing there because of the higher cost of living is that a person should get a higher exemption for income tax purposes to offset that. That is the solution in areas like that where it costs \$150 to \$200 a year more to heat a home and other items are dearer.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** A very valid point.

**Mr. Ruston:** That's where we have got to even up some things. I am speaking on this thing as a layman, seeing what goes on in the schools and having had five children go through the school system. This is something the public, the teachers and all are going to have to look at very seriously. I think it would be acceptable and can be worked out. Probably the first contract would have to be negotiated. I imagine the Ministry of Educa-

tion and the teachers' federation and some board members would set up the first one to get it started, but they would probably try to level off the top one which would be a matter of negotiation.

If the teachers had a right to strike and if their contract came up in the summer, if the schools didn't open for a month I guess some of the farmers would be happy because they would have more help to do their work, but I don't think that is what we would want. If it did happen, that's what would happen. That's something that governments are going to have to consider very seriously.

I really don't have too much more. I want to make one or two remarks and I want to put this in these terms and I am not in any way criticizing anything with regard to the Ombudsman himself. But there are just one or two things and I suppose we will have an opportunity to discuss this when he brings in his report to the Legislature. I discussed it briefly when we went through the bill when the bill was passed. I heard the Ombudsman speak in Windsor when he was there at the Rotary Club. He gave a very good talk and explained his position and so forth. He is a very capable man.

The thing that concerns me is the size of his staff and how it is going to operate as it keeps growing. My idea of an Ombudsman was that his staff would be kept reasonably small and he would deal with things that concerned people who had been aggrieved by some government agency or something and they would come to his office as a court of last resort. I think he himself then would almost have the opportunity to deal with every serious case himself. I think then the people would be much more satisfied.

But what concerns me is, if he has the staff that he is going with now and which looks as if it may increase, we are going to lose that personal touch. I really think that is something that we will be discussing, I am sure, when his report comes into the Legislature, but I want to say that now. It is no reflection on the man himself because I think he is a most capable man from hearing him speak and from what I have read about him. That's just one of the things that I think we will probably be discussing at a later date.

**Mr. Laughren:** The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) has doubled the Ombudsman's work load.

**Mr. Ruston:** I should have a few remarks with regard to the farming industry. It has been spoken on at some length here by different members and I am sure that other



members in our party will be discussing it as well. The member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Gaunt) today questioned the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) about the money available for tile loans and was concerned that it was being cut down from \$16 million to \$10 million for 1976, when some report came out.

**Mr. Riddell:** The minister is going to take that up to \$20 million.

**Mr. Ruston:** We are in a flat country. I had the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) down last week to my annual meeting and had him over to the home for dinner. We took a little drive around and he was amazed at the flat country that we have there in Essex county. So we are the ones that use tile to great benefit.

I would suppose that if every farm in Essex county was tiled to its best potential we would probably increase production by 50 per cent. We have many that are properly tiled, of course. I have heard of some that are only one rod apart where there is a high concentration of tomato production and such things and the possibility of high income.

**Mr. Laughren:** Don't tell the Tories it's flat; they will build an airport there.

**Mr. Ruston:** The majority of them are two rods apart, but the tiling on some of the older farms that were tiled years ago is only 50 ft apart, while on some of them it is as far as four rods apart. Some of the tiles on my brother's farm are four rods apart; they were tiled 70 years ago, and they are still working, but he will probably be making an application.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Oh, sneaky!

**Hon. W. Newman:** Conflict of interest.

**Mr. Ruston:** Anyway, I think it is very important, when we talk about the shortage of food and so forth, to remember that we are far from what we can produce in terms of the potential of farm land in Ontario. Certainly, we don't want to take away the prime land, and I am thinking of the class 1 and class 2 land, where we grow peaches and things like that. It's interesting to note that the Ontario Tender Fruit Institute, in one of its news releases, stated that acreage in the Niagara Peninsula has been frozen for agricultural uses under land-use controls brought into effect in 1974. The release states:

Sam Piott, chairman of the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers Marketing Board, has stated that the orchard operators support the zoning controls, but adds: "Now we

must see that markets are available for our peaches, pears, plums and cherries that will allow the growers to make a reasonable living."

I have been saying that for years; the farmers tell me that. And, of course, that's why we will probably need a stabilization fund to guarantee that we don't lose our shirts when we get an oversupply in the world.

In the last year or so, the President of the United States clamped down on exports because he was afraid that if they kept on making those large exports to Russia and other countries, it would raise the grain prices, which would force food prices up. And he didn't want that to happen, with an election coming within a year.

A large trade union in the Florida area refused to load boats for export because they were afraid that it would force these commodity prices up and there would be a higher cost of living. The prices of soya beans, corn and many commodities are down below the cost of production, and that was one of the things that caused them to go down.

We must have some security if something the President of the United States does can lower prices to such an extent. We just can't stand that type of thing. We don't know how much of it had to do with it, however, because we do know that there is quite a surplus of many commodities. In Brazil last year, I believe they produced 350 million bu of soya beans, which are a high-protein feed; this year, in the harvest they are starting now, they expect to harvest about 450 million bu. They are producing to a great potential, and we find the same in other countries.

We have to really say that the potential of producing foodstuff is still there and still on the land we have. No doubt about that. As long as we can be sure that the price will be there so that the farmer can come out with a reasonable profit, why, we'll be able to produce it, no doubt about that.

Another thing, this year, the tomato and vegetable marketing board has gone to arbitration for tomato contract prices and they got two dollars less than last year. That would be similar to the teacher-board negotiations in Windsor, where the board was trying to cut down some. Actually they ended up \$2 a ton less for processing tomatoes this year than last year from \$83 down to \$81 a ton. So we'll have to accept it, but it's not good.

However, farmers, being as they are, will overcome. There are not many people who can keep losing money and still keep living. But sometimes you can do that for a while.



I don't really have too much more to add at this time. The thing I want to stress is the mismanagement of this government in its financial affairs for the last five years. I think that's very important. I think that's the most important part.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Oh, no. Just a minute. And you are pushing us to spend more money.

**Mr. Ruston:** I also think that the headline hunting that they were trying to find by cutting back a few of what we call the emotional areas—hospitals and social services—

**Mr. Roy:** Right, redneck, right there.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** You keep pushing us to spend more money.

**Mr. Ruston:** These to me are the emotional things, and this is what they were looking for. This is what they were looking for with headlines. They were saving us money. "We're the saviours of the taxpayers." Well, as far as I'm concerned, that's a bunch of hogwash.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** That is not parliamentary.

**Mr. Ruston:** That was just looking for headlines to go to the public.

**Mr. Good:** But it is true.

**Mr. Ruston:** So be careful.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** The Speaker said it was not parliamentary when the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) used that.

**Mr. Ruston:** We've got to be careful that we don't go to the public and they suck us in. That's all. We've just got to be careful. Thank you.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the member thought I was sitting here just to listen to him this afternoon.

**Mr. Ruston:** Yes, I thought you were just here to hear me.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Yes, I was. I was.

**Mr. Gaunt:** Bill, I will be right back. I want to hear you.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne expressed the government's determination, I think, and I feel—

**Mr. Roy:** "I think," yes. You are not sure. You are not really too sure.

**Hon. W. Newman:** —to protect and strengthen Ontario's agricultural production.

I don't intend to discuss our legislative intentions in detail today—

Interjections.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** What legislative intentions?

**Hon. W. Newman:** —but I'd like to show how the measures we plan will fit into the overall policy of this Ministry of Agriculture and Food, especially as it has developed in the last five years.

At the risk of oversimplifying, our policy might be summed up in three sentences. We want the best agricultural land in any area used for food production. We want that land to yield as much high quality food as possible, at prices everyone can afford. And to make sure farmers stay on the land producing our food, we want them to earn a decent return on their heavy investment in money, time, effort and labour.

**Mr. McKessock:** That's a statement, Bill?

**Hon. W. Newman:** The objectives are clear. But some of the problems in achieving them are enormously complicated. My ministry already administers 50 pieces of legislation and many more will be needed as new problems demand new solutions in the future.

**Mr. Laughren:** Start with saving agricultural land.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Perhaps the thorniest problems lie in the area of land use. With all the competing claims for land in this province, how do you maintain prime agricultural land for food production without state control of agriculture?

**Mr. Roy:** It's obvious you don't have the answer.

**Hon. W. Newman:** The trouble is, I don't believe in state control, and I hope the member for Ottawa East doesn't either.

**Mr. Roy:** I don't. You are talking to the wrong guys.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Certainly the answer is not through a provincial land freeze, the simplistic solution which some people advocate as though a policy of zero growth could be imposed on Ontario. Instead, there are sensible, equitable, reasonable approaches to this problem and this government will soon make a major statement on land use policy in this province.

**Mr. Roy:** We want action, not statements.

**Hon. W. Newman:** We have certainly demonstrated our willingness to tackle this problem, as witnessed by the positive approaches to urban encroachment on the rich Niagara fruitlands, which were just mentioned, along the Niagara Escarpment, in the Toronto-centred region and other areas.

**Mr. Laughren:** Tell us about Nanticoke.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Yes.

**Mr. Shore:** Is this question and answer?  
[4:30]

**Hon. W. Newman:** A foodland development branch was established in my ministry in 1974. This is a very hard working branch. It develops land policies and programmes throughout this province and it reviews those of other provincial and federal ministries to help co-ordinate new programmes related to Ontario farmland.

It reviews municipal, county and regional planning documents to make sure that the municipal authorities are aware of their prime land and of our concerns for its use. The branch performs similar functions in the case of Ontario Hydro plans, power corridors, highways, airports, pipelines, parks and industrial developments.

The food land development branch has other responsibilities, too, including the administration of three Acts which cover draining water off farmland. The importance of proper farm drainage can hardly be over-emphasized. It can increase production of some crops by as much as two-thirds, depending on the soil and the year. We have seen a tremendous upswing in draining installation in recent years.

A select committee on land drainage was appointed in 1972 and most of its recommendations for changes to streamline the present Drainage Act were incorporated in whole or in part in the new Act passed last year. The Act has been proclaimed today except for two sections which will become effective in the future when funds are made available.

The Act provides grants amounting to one-third of the cost of a municipal drainage works for agricultural land; two-thirds of the cost to a territorial district or a provisional county, and up to four-fifths of the cost in some northern areas without municipal organization.

In 11 eastern Ontario counties an additional one-third grant has been provided through the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Agreement, better known as

ARDA. I have recommended that this federal-provincial cost-sharing programme be extended for another two years to March 31, 1978. Altogether the Ontario government has contributed more than \$14.2 million toward these larger drainage projects in four years.

**Mr. Martel:** How much has the federal government given in the same period?

**Hon. W. Newman:** If you know anything about ARDA, you know exactly how it works. If you don't you should read about it.

**Mr. Martel:** I am asking you. Obviously you don't know.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. W. Newman:** It is usually on a 50-50 basis unless the federal government decides, for special reasons, to pay more.

**Mr. Martel:** How am I supposed to know that?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Maeck:** He just told you.

**Hon. W. Newman:** If you would go to school—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Would the hon. minister continue?

**Hon. W. Newman:** While the Drainage Act helps provide municipal drains in rural areas the Tile Drainage Act helps individual farmers to have smaller connecting drain systems installed on their land.

Under the latter Act, the municipalities may grant farmers 10-year loans to cover up to 75 per cent of the installation cost. The municipalities issue debentures at the same rate of interest as the Treasury of Ontario and the interest subsidy is paid through my ministry. We estimate that approximately 60 cents of every dollar spent on tile drainage comes from provincial assistance.

There has been an astonishing increase in the use of this legislation since 1971, when it was substantially realized that debentures have added up to more than \$41.6 million in the succeeding four years, which means that tile drainage work done per year has almost tripled.

In 1975, the Act was revised so that farmers in unorganized areas and municipalities may get loans on the same basis as those in organized municipalities throughout the province. Under the other cost-sharing agreements, the provincial and federal governments have jointly spent more than \$60



million on the development of rural Ontario in this decade.

The farm consolidation and enlargement programme enables livestock farmers to expand and improve the value of their farms by leasing or buying lands from ARDA. It also enables elderly farm people to sell their farms to ARDA on retirement but to lease the house for their own use. ARDA leases the remaining land to neighbouring farmers at a subsidized interest rate for five years thereby guaranteeing that it is maintained for agriculture while at the same time helping the lessee earn enough to buy land in the future. To date, 2,769 farms have been purchased under this programme at a total cost exceeding \$28 million.

In addition, nine community pastures have been established to provide grazing for 5,000 cattle. These are some of the ways the government helps conserve and improve agricultural land.

Of course one of the surest ways to encourage foodland production is to make agriculture a worthwhile business venture. We have a wide variety of programmes that help offset the risks a farmer must take and improve his opportunities to earn a decent living. During this session we will take another major step forward by introducing legislation to offer farmers voluntary income stabilization plans.

This legislation will be designed to dovetail with the federal Agricultural Stabilization Act, but it can function quite well on its own if it proves necessary. The federal floor price under Bill 350 for certain commodities is supposed to represent 90 per cent of their market price averaged over the previous five years, with the production cost figure also brought in. Unfortunately the federal government keeps stalling instead of publicly announcing support prices that could have been calculated last fall.

**Mr. McKessock:** Let's not wait on them, Bill.

**Hon. W. Newman:** I guess not, because I was promised a date and I was promised a deadline. But don't get me wrong, I think the federal Minister of Agriculture really means well—and that's something for me to say in this House—but I do say that he means well. I am not sure that his cabinet colleagues agree with him and that's one of his problems. I was promised a deadline on this and that deadline has passed, which does kind of upset me as today I expected I would be able to announce what they had announced in Ottawa. I understand that some announce-

ment is coming tonight and maybe it will be included at that time.

**Mr. Roy:** Did you call them?

**Mr. Riddell:** Do you want me to give them a call for you, Bill? I'll call Eugene.

**Hon. W. Newman:** I probably talk to him more than you do.

**Mr. Roy:** Kissing cousins.

**Hon. W. Newman:** I still think a basic income stabilization programme should be national in scope and should apply realistically to as many farm products as possible, but it will take a greater sense of commitment than Ottawa has shown so far to get all the provinces pulling together. The Ontario government is going ahead because the time for action is long overdue, not because we want to establish any separate jurisdiction. Our legislation won't put any obstacles in the way of a national stabilization programme and it will include farm products that would not be covered on a nationwide scale.

Our goal is to provide a base level of support for commodities that are not already under supply management. Producers who want to be partners in a plan for a specific farm product will join the provincial government in contributing to a stabilization fund for it. The minimum support levels will be tied to production costs, including allowances for farm family labour, management and new investment costs. In a year when income from a commodity falls below the established support level, payments will be made from the fund to all participating producers. In years when prices are above this level, the fund will build up.

Thus farmers will have a safety net, if they think they need it, under our plan and through the government contributions the consumers as a whole will assume a share of the risk-taking to maintain a healthy industry that will keep food coming on to their tables. The increased stability will benefit everyone in the province, not just the farmers.

I am confident we can achieve the same kind of success we have seen since we introduced a type of stabilization plan for the beef-calf producers last year at a time when market prices were so low that some farmers were paying truckers almost to take their calves away from the stockyards.

**Mr. Wildman:** It cost you twice as much.

**Hon. W. Newman:** It sure did.

More than 12,100 producers enrolled in this plan, with 313,000 cows the first year. Payments to them totalled \$22.5 million



based on an average weighted price of a 450-lb calf at 50 cents per lb; and the average weighted price of course turned out to be 29.83 cents and thus there was a pay-out this year of \$22.5 million. My ministry is conducting a painstaking study, at this time, of various production costs across Ontario to help us arrive at this year's guaranteed price.

As I said at the outset, Mr. Speaker, the consumer has a vital stake in keeping the farmer on the land. It is only fair that he should contribute to a stable agricultural industry through the tax-supported share of stabilization and other programmes. Canadians have always enjoyed food at bargain prices, but far too few of them realize it. The average family spends, today, between 18 and 19 per cent of its income on food. In most countries the percentage is considerably higher. In some it is as high as 80 per cent of total income spent for food.

The greater share of income we can spend on other things is a major factor in the high standards of living most Canadians take for granted—most urban Canadians, but not most farmers. They are traditionally the poor country cousins in our affluent society.

Now that farm gate prices are becoming a little more realistic, shoppers will just have to face the fact that the country cousin deserves his fair share too. Such a sense of justice is sadly lacking, however, in many of the complaints about food prices that I keep hearing and reading.

I am particularly annoyed by the publicity given to critics who persist in portraying marketing boards for various farm products as the main villain behind rising food prices. A recent example was the final report of the federal food prices review board, issued long after the board itself ceased to exist. There should be no mistake where the government of Ontario stands. It stands squarely behind the marketing boards and the concept of collective action by the farmers of this province.

Over the years, more and more farmers have voted for such boards. Today, we market more than 40 farm products in Ontario. The 22 boards offer a unified system for negotiating with buyers for the major chain stores and food processors. They eliminate wasteful duplication of marketing and supply systems. They protect the grocers, the butchers and shoppers, as well as farmers, from wildly fluctuating prices.

In the era of marketing boards, food prices have gone down in relation to wages, while farm operations have grown steadily more

productive and efficient. If there are any rip-offs along the road from producers to consumers, they obviously don't occur in the operation of Ontario's marketing boards.

I am proud that our province is recognized as a leader and innovator in the development of organized producer marketing in North America. Every year experts come from around the world to visit Ontario to study our methods, and to find ways of applying our expertise to their own problems.

I am equally proud of our other programmes. In the remaining time I would like to touch briefly on some of those most important programmes in the ministry.

In 1973 the farm tax reduction programme was improved to rebate 50 per cent of the property taxes paid by genuine farmers who produced at least \$2,000 in farm goods annually. In effect, this is virtually equivalent to a full rebate of all property taxes, since 50 per cent of the grant includes the house and all farm buildings.

The Succession Duty Act was adjusted to forgive succession duties on farming assets that are bequeathed to farm family members. When a farmer dies and his heirs use his assets to continue farming, the succession duty is registered as a claim on the property, but is forgiven at the rate of one-tenth each year. This arrangement makes it possible for family farms to continue from generation to generation. In 1975 the basic allowance for forgiveness was increased to \$250,000 from \$150,000.

The Gift Tax Act was amended last year so that a farmer may make gifts of farming assets up to a total of \$75,000 to help a family member get established as a farmer. These lifetime gift exemptions are being widely used as another aid in preserving the concept of the family farm.

Like any other business, agriculture requires increased capital to expand and meet continuing economic and technological changes. Our grants programme for capital improvements was updated and expanded in 1971. So far about \$118 million has been paid in capital grants.

Agricultural development grants for northern Ontario were doubled in 1975, to \$420,000 per year. They are distributed to the 11 northern districts, each of which forms a local committee to allocate these funds.

Another very important programme was launched last year, the Ontario Young Farmer Credit Programme. Farmers between the ages of 18 and 35 may obtain provincially-



guaranteed loans for farm development purposes from banks and designated credit unions. The loans are for periods up to 10 years, with interest one per cent above the prime rate. The amount, terms and repayment schedules are based on individual production plans and ability to pay.

[4:45]

**Mr. Laughren:** With policies like that you would think southern Ontario would vote for you.

**Hon. W. Newman:** This new intermediate-term credit programme ties into our policy of maintaining government-owned land in agricultural production in situations such as the North Pickering and the Townsend projects. By providing the opportunity to rent farmland, the credit package generates sufficient cash flow over a period of years to assist a young farmer in the eventual purchase of his own farm.

So far, 152 applications have been recommended for loans totalling well over \$4.3 million. The Ontario government also provides individual credit counselling and farm management advice for thousands of farmers and would-be farmers. In many cases these services have helped farmers obtain extended lines of relatively low-cost credit. In addition, my ministry has conducted hundreds of seminars, short courses and workshops on credit management; and we have also printed and distributed very popular publications on this subject.

The Crop Insurance Act of Ontario is 10 years old this year, and now it provides comprehensive insurance plans for all major crops. Last year more than a million acres were insured, with the government of Ontario paying all administrative costs.

The Industrial Milk Production Incentive Programme was established in 1973 to enable Ontario farmers to expand their output of manufacturing milk at a time when the federal government was calling for increased production.

It also assisted dairymen in converting from milk cans to bulk shipments. Now that we are in an over-supply situation instead, this programme, of course, is no longer operative. At the time the programme accomplished what we were asked to do and what we asked our farmers to do, and 1,524 loans were made for a total of \$8.6 million.

The IMPIP programme provided for a five-year guarantee on bank loans designed to increase production. No repayment of principal was required in the first year and a

borrower who met his increased production targets received a rebate from the province of up to 20 per cent of the amount that he borrowed.

To help municipalities and conservation authorities provide flood protection measures for agricultural land in southwestern Ontario, new agreements have been initiated since 1970 with the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Environment Canada. The senior levels of government share equally to cover 90 per cent of the cost. In addition to the \$18.7 million authorized under these agreements, we have approved \$13 million worth of new flood protection works and are awaiting federal approval of these projects.

Last fall, the government of Ontario came to the aid of the grape growers who produced a crop of remarkable quality but found themselves with a huge surplus through no fault of their own. The government supported the Grape Growers' Marketing Board by guaranteeing loans to purchase all 11,500 tons of surplus grapes for \$2.25 million. They yielded about 54,000 gallons of brandy which is being aged. The balance of the surplus crop has been converted into concentrate and juice. Just remember that when it is ready for market.

To help achieve better markets and greater future stability, the government also initiated a three-year programme to convert 3,000 acres of Labrusca grapes to French hybrid varieties in keeping with the trend in consumer tastes in table wines. For growers who want to switch and who qualify, the government offered 10-year guaranteed bank loans up to \$1,500 an acre with the first five years interest free. The goal is to convert 1,000 acres a year for three years. Discussions with bankers on this loan programme are almost complete and detailed information on it will be available within a few weeks.

In five years ARDA grants totalling \$4 million have helped small industries locate in rural Ontario or modernize their plants. Another \$9 million has helped rural municipalities develop parks and in the process provide jobs and give local businesses a boost. Forestry programmes on Crown land accounted for another \$8 million; and projects to help Indians, with projects such as wild rice and cranberry industries, accounted for another \$2.5 million.

My ministry's manpower services branch recruits and places farm labourers; it also helps with their training and housing. This year, farmers who build new accommodation for seasonal workers are eligible for federal

provincial grants covering half the construction costs up to a maximum of \$3,000. The programmes I have mentioned and others like them provide straight dollars and cents assistance to the agriculture and food industries. We also operate many other programmes, where the benefits are less tangible perhaps but certainly not less important.

For example, the Ontario Food Council works constantly on improving the co-ordination between all segments of the food production chain from producer to consumer. It identifies and promotes markets for a wide variety of Ontario food products, domestically and abroad. Since 1970 the Food Council has sponsored more than 40 sales missions to foreign countries and taken part in four international trade shows. In 1970 exports of food and agricultural products from Ontario totalled \$420 million. In only three years they rose to \$599 million, almost a 50 per cent increase. The Food Council's work certainly played a large part in this improvement, and we intend to pursue our export campaign vigorously.

The Ontario Food Council will also strengthen its research and information programmes to tell consumers of good food values, products in abundant supply and the factors behind some price changes. I'm sure all the hon. members will be happy to learn they have been added to the Food Council's mailing list as of this year so they will be informed of all its material directed to consumers. This programme provides almost 100 articles each year promoting various Ontario food products.

Another vital function of the Food Council is to institute projects in Ontario which by the late 1970s will replace more than \$5 million worth of imported food products with products grown in this province. Considerable success has already been achieved in growing and marketing pickling onions and future prospects are very promising. We have shown that peanuts can be grown successfully in the Delhi area. The Food Council will continue working with co-operating peanut growers to increase the acreage and help with marketing problems. Other current programmes are designed to cut into imports of baby carrots and frozen vegetables and to make Ontario self-sufficient in feed grains.

My ministry recently established a trade and tariff committee because of the importance of tariffs to the future development of agriculture in Ontario. The Ontario government also has an inter-ministerial committee to present its concerns to Canada's negotiators in the so-called Tokyo Round of negotiations

under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva.

**Mr. Roy:** Did you write that speech yourself, Bill?

**Hon. W. Newman:** Pretty well—

**Mr. Roy:** I thought so.

**Hon. W. Newman:** —because you ask me a question about any part of it and I can answer it.

**Mr. Martel:** Continue the rest of the speech without the notes then.

**Hon. W. Newman:** I want to assure you—

**Mr. Martel:** Give me the notes.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** He is going to get his pages mixed up. Don't touch it.

**Hon. W. Newman:** I want to ensure that Ontario farmers not only have reasonable access to foreign markets but also have adequate protection from low-priced imports in cases where this is required. I have taken these matters up with the federal Minister of Agriculture, since this area is in the federal jurisdiction.

I want to tell you something about the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. All the fine programmes we have in the province, all the great programmes we plan in the future, all we plan to do about agricultural lands and all of the things we are trying to do to help the farmers to make a decent living off the land, can all go down the drain. We can lose it all without proper agreement under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

We are not asking for a lot around this province. All we are asking for is a fair shake. When we want to ship our corn out of the country we have to pay a tariff of 25 cents a bushel.

**Mr. Martel:** The Berlin wall.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Corn can come into this country at eight cents a bushel. On peaches shipped out of this country there is a tariff of \$1.93 a case; to come into this country from the US it's about 63 cents and from Australia seven cents. If you think those are fair tariffs, I don't. I am really concerned.

I could go on about other tariffs. For too long we have been trading off Ontario's agricultural products for other items in this country, and I say it is time we did something to protect the agricultural industry.



**Mr. Roy:** Why do you follow the tariffs, Bill?

**Hon. W. Newman:** Now I've left my notes, I have forgotten where I left off.

**Mr. Ruston:** You made that up on the spur of the moment?

**Mr. Roy:** Why do you follow the tariff?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** The NDP don't have any friends in Ottawa.

**Mr. Roy:** If you don't keep quiet we are going to give you a shovel.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** You wouldn't know which end to use.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Shall I tell you something? I am concerned about the agricultural industry in this province. I see what is happening in the food industry; I have seen what is happening in the greenhouse industry; and I see what is happening in many other fields in the agriculture industry. We are not asking for any special treatment, just fair treatment. I think we have been ripped off too long in the Province of Ontario on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. I am not necessarily blaming Ottawa, but I think we have to really make our case.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Blame Ottawa, that is where the responsibility rests.

**Mr. Ruston:** You must accept the high price if that is the case.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Are you saying we should have differential tariffs?

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the hon. minister address his remarks through the Chair?

**Mr. Ruston:** Let's be honest about it, eh?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. W. Newman:** I tell you that Ontario farmers are not getting a fair shake with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—

**Mr. Ruston:** I agree. Imported tomatoes are killing us.

**Mr. Riddell:** Bill, you were doing better when you followed your notes.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Our market information service is the envy of every other province for its accuracy, scope and popularity. It provides farm weather reports, fruit and vegetable market analyses, feed grain reports and summaries, hog reports, road reports and in-

formation on commodity movement and prices. More than 30 Ontario radio stations broadcast our reports one to three times a day.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food also maintains offices in each of Ontario's counties, districts and regions. In effect, every one is a mini-ministry for the area it serves; a wide variety of information is available there, with special emphasis on farm management and rural youth programmes.

We have in our ag offices some of the most capable, conscientious, hard-working people you would find anywhere in this great province of ours, looking after the concerns and the needs of the farmers. I don't think there is an ag office in this province you could walk into and not get some very helpful, friendly advice as far as agriculture is concerned.

**Mr. Riddell:** There have been some great men in that department too that are no longer with it, great men.

**Mr. Kennedy:** I would go along with that.

**Hon. W. Newman:** I have heard a great deal about your first one.

**Mr. Riddell:** And they have left some great offspring.

**Hon. W. Newman:** We provide feed testing and soil testing services on a province-wide basis, together with related feed and fertilizer advisory services.

Our inspectors monitor operations in the all-red meat slaughtering plants in the province. This work will be stepped up during 1976. We license and inspect community livestock sales. We analyse milk on a regular basis for quality and nutritional content. We train and license the people who work in dairies and edible oil operations, as well as inspect their work.

We license fur farms, fruit and vegetable dealers, nurseries, apple packers and controlled atmosphere storage plants. We maintain a year-round inspection and grading service for fruits, vegetables, honey, maple syrup, tobacco and even Christmas trees.

We have initiated a pest monitoring service to advise the farmer of the critical time for using pesticides. We have demonstrated that our advice can reduce the number of times he sprays. This saves him money and protects the environment from an unnecessary load of chemicals.

Our veterinary laboratories in various areas of the province offer diagnostic and consultation services to veterinarians, livestock owners and poultrymen.

We provide compensation for the loss of livestock to wolves, bears, rabies and trigger-happy hunters. This cost the province almost \$250,000 in this last fiscal year.

Among other activities, our agricultural and horticultural societies branch helps finance the annual fall fairs throughout Ontario. These fall fairs are wonderful institutions for promoting greater understanding between our urban and rural people, and I'd hate to see them vanish like so many of our other rural traditions.

Our agricultural research budget was increased by nearly \$3 million last year to a total of \$15.8 million. In spite of our austerity measures, I hope we can maintain a similar level of research in the coming year.

The areas of special emphasis in research change continuously in response to new problems that arise, and to the need to adapt research advances made elsewhere to suit Ontario's purposes. Naturally, a great deal of emphasis is being placed these days on ways of conserving energy in various phases of agriculture. Farming itself consumes only 2.5 per cent to three per cent of all the energy used in Canada, but the different processes that bring the food to the table consume 12 per cent to 15 per cent. At various institutions supported by my ministry, nine research projects are currently under way on energy management to improve the efficiency of production systems. They emphasize conservation methods in the areas of grain drying, tobacco drying, tillage systems, forage harvesting, barn ventilation and greenhouse vegetable production.

[5:00]

A new energy management resource centre has been established at the Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology to provide an ongoing educational programme on energy conservation for farming communities. The centre will evaluate all the new technology that comes out of the research studies I mentioned and relay the information to the agriculture industry. We will also have a diesel van to travel across Ontario lecturing special groups on energy conservation this year.

Among other research projects, I might mention livestock programmes, experimental feeds, pesticides and the broad area of crop production. In fact, our research interests embrace every area of agriculture, and the potential benefits to both producer and consumer are incalculable.

My ministry is keenly interested in the calibre of young men and women who will be the farmers—and farm leaders—of tomorrow.

We have a continuing involvement in the 4-H programme for rural youths between the ages of 12 and 19, and in the 4-H homemakers clubs for girls and young women between the ages of 12 and 26.

We provide guidance and assistance to the many junior farmers' clubs which offer members a variety of educational, social and recreational activities. Each summer our junior agriculturalist programme offers about 200 youths from towns and cities the chance to live, learn and work on farms during the school vacation.

**Mr. Riddell:** Bill, what are you going to leave the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) to say in his Throne speech?

**Hon. W. Newman:** Listen, if I did all of the things I wanted to do, I'd be going all day.

**An hon. member:** Better not do that.

**Mr. Martel:** Why don't you play tennis for a while?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** No, there is another expert at that.

**Mr. Ruston:** Sounds as if it is a lead off for the estimates.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Last year we had four times as many applicants as placement spots, and all indications are that the programme is as successful as it is popular. More and more young people are moving from the big cities to the country, just as I did as a young man, and I believe the steadily mounting interest in the junior agricultural programme is indicative of this trend.

My ministry supports agricultural diploma courses at the University of Guelph and in the colleges of agricultural technology at Ridgetown, Kemptville, New Liskeard and Centralia. Enrolments in these courses have increased 43 per cent over the last five years to an all-time high of 1,143 students. About 80 per cent of the students come from farms, and about 50 per cent of the graduates go straight into farming I consider that another encouraging sign for the future of agriculture in Ontario.

I recently invited about 250 young farmers to a conference in Metropolitan Toronto where they discussed—

**Mr. Gaunt:** The federation of farmers unions were very upset with that.

**Hon. W. Newman:** There were many groups upset about it and I've talked to them



and explained the purpose to them. Maybe I'll just stop here and tell you about what I did.

We decided that we have some very fine farm organizations in this province. We have some very fine marketing boards in this province, all of which I think are great. But let me say this: I decided to have a group of young farmers in.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: Some of them were probably members of the NFU, some of them were probably members of the OF of A. Some of them were probably members of various other organizations, the CFF and so on and so forth. But they came as a group of young people to express their views on their own. The staff were not involved except to organize, to set it up. They did their own thing; they discussed what they wanted to discuss.

Mr. Riddell: What did they say about the farm income stabilization programme?

Mr. Worton: I am glad you asked that!

Hon. W. Newman: All right. These young people came in with some definite and positive ideas of their own; I just have received—I understand they were put on my desk this afternoon—a summary of the conference they had. This was not a conference to take away anything from any other organizations. It was to get a group of young people together and let them hammer away at their thoughts and their ideas.

Mr. Moffatt: But they don't believe it.

Hon. W. Newman: They had a very useful and worthwhile day and I think if you talk to any of those young farmers who were there, they would agree with it. Even some of the ones from your county didn't agree with each other; and that's good, that's a healthy sign. I don't mind that. I told them I wanted to hear what they really had to say; and I did. They said exactly what they wanted to say; they were frank and open and honest about it, and I admire them for doing it.

Mr. Riddell: You will find that is typical of all people from Huron.

Mr. Martel: Even Charlie MacNaughton.

Hon. W. Newman: I won't say what some people from Huron county said about him. I won't do it; no, I won't.

I'm going to set up a committee, also of young farmers, who will meet me from time to time to give me their ideas. They're the farmers of the future; they're the ones who have to look down that road and plan. They're the ones who are going to be in the business 30, 40 years from now, long after we're all out of here.

Mr. Worton: We hope you will be, Bill.

Mr. McKessock: Is this an appointed committee, Bill?

Hon. W. Newman: I think it's important that we get their ideas.

Interjection.

Mr. Ruston: The president of my riding association, he came down.

Hon. W. Newman: In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that of all the economic structures in Ontario, agriculture is the only one that has increased its percentage share of national productivity during the 1970s. Ontario farmers receive a bigger share of Canada's total cash receipts than farmers in any other province. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food is proud of the part it has played in their accomplishment; it will continue to lend a helping hand, wherever and whenever it can, through the policies and programmes I have discussed here today.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to say this; and I say this in all sincerity. I've travelled around this province. I've talked to various farm groups from north to south, and east to west; I'm very proud of the farmers in our province and the great job they are doing. Thank you very much.

Mr. Laughren: I was very glad to have heard the Minister of Agriculture and Food's remarks. We were hard pressed to understand how he can rationalize the loss of good farmland in Ontario, but I suppose over the years he has learned how to do that.

Mr. Makarchuk: He's serving us food and hot air.

Mr. Laughren: We, in this party, know that you have done nothing, but I'll comment more about that a little later.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I take part in the Throne debate. I mean that. I've always felt that the Throne debate is an opportunity, particularly for opposition members and back-bench members of the government, to get a lot of things off their chests.

When we serve as members of the Legislature we do bottle things up. There are

frustrations we need to express in a forum such as this. I can assure you that when we, in this party, put an amendment to the Throne Speech it was not done to posture, it was done because we feel very strongly against the way this government is expressing its goals, and the method by which it is attempting to reach those goals.

The purpose of our amendment, Mr. Speaker, was to indicate very clearly to the government, and to others, that we are fundamentally opposed to what they are attempting to do, because the goal of this government has always been to maintain the status quo at virtually all costs. They wish to maintain the status quo in a number of areas, including the distribution of income; including the management of our economy; the role of labour, whether organized or unorganized; to maintain the status quo in our educational system, including its role in restricting the mobility of lower income groups in our society; and finally, to maintain the status quo in the economic development of this province, not just in southern Ontario, but in northern and eastern Ontario as well.

As opposed to those goals of the government, the goals of this party would be to redistribute income in Ontario to the best that we could do, given the jurisdiction of a provincial government. We know that in the last 10 years the distribution of income in this country has discriminated against the bottom 20 per cent of income earners in Canada. The bottom 20 per cent earns less now, as a proportion of the national income, than it did 10 years ago, and the top 20 per cent earns more. We would use the taxation system to redistribute income.

When talking about management of the economy, we certainly would not approach management of Ontario the way this government has done. We see this government restricting the delivery of health and social services because of their mismanagement of the economy. We would differ from the way the Liberals would manage the economy because we see, as one of the keys in managing the economy, the resources of Ontario.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that the latest figures available show that the return to the people of Ontario of our resources is 1.9 per cent of the value of those resources. That's the highest it's been as far back as the figures go that I could find. That's a very small return on the resources of this province.

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: I must say, Mr. Speaker, that the Economic Council of Canada has

been warning the provinces that we simply must get a better return on our resources; that we simply must use the resources as the key to unlocking the development of the various provinces. In Ontario we are not doing it.

Mr. Speaker, since 1966 in the resource sector in northeastern Ontario, which is where most of the non-renewable resources are located, employment has declined 10 per cent. At the same time, output of minerals has increased 27 per cent. So in absolute numbers, employment has gone down in the resource sector and product and output has gone up dramatically. Surely, Mr. Speaker, that is not the way to develop an economy.

And it is closely related, Mr. Speaker, to the provision of services, because as long as the people in Ontario are demanding the kind of social services and health services they are now, the private sector and the public sector that is responsible for creating new wealth simply must continue to create more new wealth. And one of the key ways of doing that is through the development of our resources; not the way we do it now, but by fuller processing and by manufacturing finished products in the Province of Ontario. That will never happen in the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, there is a relationship between the closing of hospitals and the ownership of our resources. Only when the people of Ontario own the resources and the people of Ontario get the maximum return on those resources will we be able to afford those kind of services which the people in Ontario have a right to expect. Well I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that in the riding of Nickel Belt which I represent, there hasn't been any hospital closing at all. As a matter of fact, two weeks ago I attended the opening of a new hospital. I would like to tell you what happened there, Mr. Speaker. I think you would enjoy that.

It was in Chapleau, and I flew on the very fine norOntair service to Chapleau. One of the things that I very much appreciate is the norOntair service in northeastern Ontario; and you never hear me calling it a Kamikazi airline that specializes in controlled crashes; never, Mr. Speaker, I am a great fan of norOntair.

At the opening ceremony, there was an assistant deputy minister from the Ministry of Health, and of course there was the chairman of the local hospital board, the vice-chairman and all other dignitaries in Chapleau. Mr. Speaker I know that you know what the politics of Chapleau are and how



for many years it was a Progressive Conservative stronghold. That has shifted in the last election, but nevertheless there is still a very strong Conservative element in the establishment in Chapleau.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** And they will be at the polls next time.

**Mr. Laughren:** At the opening ceremony there was a very fine speech as the ribbon was cut by the assistant deputy minister. Then they moved over for the unveiling of the plaque, and of course traditionally the plaque has the names of all the boards of directors on it and the vice-chairman who was unveiling it was making some very nice comments about this plaque. I am paraphrasing now, I don't remember exactly what he said; but he said more or less that this plaque would show, not just to the people here today, and there were several hundred local residents, but future generations who it was made this fine facility available to the community of Chapleau, who it was who had put in so much of their own personal time and effort, and had served beyond and above the call of duty to provide a facility such as this to the people in Chapleau. He pulled back the curtain from the plaque and there, covering the entire plaque, was a picture of Stephen Lewis and me, and vote NDP at the bottom.

**Mr. Speaker,** I did not do that, but I can tell you it was one of the more delicious moments of my short political career.

**Mr. Martel:** Kind of embarrassing though.

**Mr. Laughren:** If I could get back to the more serious part of my remarks, Mr. Speaker.

Interjection.

**Mr. Laughren:** Besides the redistribution of income and the management of the economy of Ontario, we in this party see labour as playing a different role than does the government. We believe that labour must share in the decisions that are made that affect labour and that affect the economy of Ontario.

We see this government doing the most incredible thing, which is reducing the minimum wage for people who serve alcoholic beverages and food.

**Mr. Speaker,** if ever there was a regressive move on the part of a government it was reducing the minimum wage for people because they happen to receive tips from their job. Why does this government think that they receive the tips? It is because their wages are so low; so the government lowers

their wages even further. What a lot of nonsense.

[5:15]

Isn't it remarkable that the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson), herself a woman, knowing full well that most of the people employed in this capacity—who receive tips and serve food and beverages—are women, would take this regressive step? That says something about the Conservative Party in Ontario.

**Mr. Martel:** Live on tips.

**Mr. Laughren:** Mr. Speaker, we also see labour playing a much more progressive role in the whole question of occupational health; the Workmen's Compensation Board; public sector bargaining; the difficulties that the unorganized workers have in Ontario in forming a union—certainly they are given no encouragement by this government—and finally, the extreme difficulties faced by working women in Ontario.

One only needs to look at the cutbacks of this government to see who that is going to affect. Out of the 4,000 to 5,000 people who will be put out of jobs as a result of the restraint programme, I suspect that between 80 and 90 per cent of those will be women. This government, at the same time, has a Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) who claims that women must get back to work. There are obvious contradictions there.

We see our educational system playing a different role than does this government. I certainly see education as still being elitist from the elementary system right through to post-secondary education. Partly because of the failure of this government to provide universal day care in Ontario, children from low income families are starting out with less opportunity than children from middle and upper income families.

We know that the educational system has done very little to remove sex stereotyping from the school books in Ontario, particularly at the elementary school level. When a group in Ontario called "Before We Are Six" did attempt to introduce some non-sexist books, particularly for kindergarten and nursery schools and for the home, the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) refused to provide a penny of support to that group. This was, to top it all off, in International Women's Year.

Neither has the real story of labour in Canada or in Ontario been told in our schools. Unless organized labour itself can convince the educational bureaucracy and the school

boards at the local level, no seminars are held in the schools to tell them the true story of the struggle labour has fought over the years.

Mr. Speaker, we see the educational system as being quantified and bureaucratic, measuring education in Ontario in terms of days and weeks and months and not on either the contents or the quality of content of the education that the children receive. That was evident when the debate went on about legislating teachers back to work. The major concern was that students in Ontario, in this particular district, had missed too much school and their educational career would be in jeopardy. It really does say something about the educational system if a student can spend 12 or 13 years in it and have it all jeopardized by 40 days. There is something wrong with that kind of educational system and we would attempt to do something about that.

I mentioned the economic development of Ontario as being something on which we differ fundamentally with the government. I was really thunderstruck by the previous speaker, the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman), when he talked about protecting farmland in Ontario. I looked back for a landmark, and I think the Nanticoke decision was a landmark in Ontario. The decision to allow that steel company to develop a complex on Lake Erie was one of the most serious mistakes this government has made.

**An hon. member:** Using ore from the north.

**Mr. Laughren:** Using ore from the north? Using good farm land in an area that is already congested—namely, the Golden Horsehoe—was a very serious mistake. That complex could very well have been developed on the north shore, or in Blind River, that area, or Thunder Bay even. But no, it was developed and allowed to go ahead at Nanticoke and I think that's a very serious mistake. History will tell, I suppose, but I really think that economists will look back in years to come and really pinpoint that as being one of the major failures of this administration. It won't cost the Tories an election itself, I understand that, but in terms of the development of Ontario, I think it was very serious. There was an opportunity to redirect growth in Ontario and the government failed.

Another area that bothers me is the whole York-Durham water and sewer project. At a cost of \$200 million—in the neighbourhood of \$200 million—they're going to put in a sewer and water system that will service anywhere between a half a million and a million

people. Talk about sewer pipe planning and that's a classic in its time.

Not only that, but now we have small communities—I've got a couple in Nickel Belt—with no water supply or a polluted water supply, one or the other. I'm going to talk about one of those communities in more detail later.

In the town of Chelmsford there are three subdivisions servicing 1,200 people and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) says they will not be able to have sewers and water because under what they call the management by results weighting system, they don't qualify. They don't have enough points. Why do they not have enough points? Because supply of water does not receive a very heavy weight. In other words, if the water was polluted, it would get a high rating and the people would get their sewer and water system; but they have no water, therefore they don't have a high weighting system.

**Mr. Wildman:** Can't be polluted.

**Mr. Laughren:** They do not have enough points under the management by results system the ministry uses. Therefore, the people are carrying water—1,200 people in three subdivisions and they're carrying water. What a lot of nonsense. At the same time, they tell the people—when we ask the ministry about the York-Durham region—the people aren't even there yet—what do they tell us? That it wasn't evaluated under the MBR system. There was no management by results rating for the York-Durham system but those existing communities, where the people are already, must fall into the MBR system now.

That's not the way to do it. The government services an area which is not even populated at the expense of areas which are populated. I don't know whether this government understands what it is like when people don't have water; or what it means to a family to have to carry water for every purpose.

I was in a home a week or two ago and a woman was melting snow. You can't do that in the summertime. She was melting snow because there is no water supply at all. What a lot of nonsense that is.

Interjections.

**Mr. Laughren:** The government says, "Sorry, you don't have enough of a rating system." No water for washing for families with small children. Can members imagine the amount of water they're going to have to



carry? No water for drinking unless they carry it all themselves. And then the government wonders why its popularity in northern Ontario has reached an all-time low. Maybe the Tories don't wonder; maybe they understand.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that there were ample reasons for our amendment and I might add there were ample reasons for the Liberal Party to support that amendment. It's not a question of whether or not the Liberals want an election or whether or not the riding associations want an election. It's a question of whether or not the people of Ontario have had enough of the insulated, aristocratic and arbitrary stewardship of the Premier. We think Ontario has had enough of that and the Liberals really should reconsider their position.

Again, there are a couple—

Mr. Martel: Fire them all.

Mr. Laughren: There are a couple of issues I would like to spend a little more time on. One is the whole question of occupational health.

In the fall of 1975, during her estimates, the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) indicated that there was going to be a new accord. I shall never forget those words. "Don't be worried," said she, "there is going to be a new accord among the various ministries of this government to deal with the occupational health problems."

Well, we've seen some of the results of the new accord. It's the same old story. Nothing has changed, simply nothing at all. As a matter of fact, if you really want to get to the source of the problem—well, there are a couple of sources. One is the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier). Another is the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) and his occupational health branch. There needs to be massive housecleanings there.

Mr. Martel: Fire them all.

Mr. Laughren: They could certainly start with the Minister of Natural Resources. I'm going to say more about the Minister of Natural Resources in a few minutes. I will have difficulty restraining myself.

Today, in the question period, the leader of the NDP raised, once again, the problem of asbestos pollution at the Matachewan mine of the United Asbestos Co. I have never been so incensed in all the time that I have been in the Legislature—well, I suppose there was one other time when I was as incensed, and that was during the battle over Elliot

Lake. The battle at Matachewan is just as serious. As a matter of fact, the dangers of asbestos pollution are more certain, we know more about it, than we knew about the problems at Elliot Lake and of uranium mining.

When we talk about occupational health, there are certain options available to any government in dealing with the occupational health problem. One option is to simply sit back, do nothing, and pay more in benefits as time goes on through the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Another alternative is to prohibit the use of dangerous products, the manufacture, or the mining of dangerous products. That's extremely difficult to do because how do you prohibit the use of polyvinyl chloride? Or uranium? It is very difficult and really not feasible at this time in the development of a society such as we have in Canada.

Another alternative is to regulate, and control, occupational health dangers until they're no longer a hazard. The solution is that one along with enforcement with incentive. Without incentive the private sector will not develop the kind of technological changes that will clean up the dangerous work places, such as those involving asbestos and polyvinyl chlorides.

Industry should also be required to pay into a research and development fund which would go toward research on occupational health problems. As well, a separate ministry should be created, with special powers enforcement. I might say, Mr. Speaker, that makes a lot more sense than a Ministry of Northern Ontario. The member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) was tripping across northern Ontario a few weeks ago, telling everybody what he thought we needed was a Ministry of Northern Ontario.

Talk about flim-flammy, Mr. Speaker: Tell people you're going to create a new Ministry of Northern Ontario so the people in the north will think suddenly their problems would be solved. Is he implying that he's going to have the expertise in that ministry that's contained in all the other ministries of government?

As a matter of fact, I happen to have a lot of respect for the civil service in this province. We have a very knowledgeable, well trained, skilled civil service. There is a lot of capability in that civil service but it's spread among the various ministries of the government. Now, we have the member for Algoma-Manitoulin saying that a Ministry of Northern Ontario would look after the problems of northern Ontario. It would only be a referral agency.

Mr. Roy: He was looking for a job.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, probably he was looking for a job. As a matter of fact, isn't he the only Conservative backbencher in northern Ontario without a cabinet post now?

Mr. Roy: Probably.

Mr. Laughren: I think he must be. I never thought of that before. Thank you for bringing that to my attention. That's probably why he raised it.

We, in this party, don't see the creation of more bureaucracy in Ontario as being the solution to solving the problems of northern Ontario. If we did have a separate Ministry of Occupational and Industrial Health it would have the expertise and the kind of powers of enforcement that would not allow things to happen such as happened at the Reeves asbestos mine up near Timmins, or is happening right now at Matachewan, or as happened at Elliot Lake or at the Johns-Mansville plant in Scarborough.

[5:30]

What's required in Ontario is a whole new approach to occupational health. If you check the schools of medicine in Ontario you'll find that they don't really have the expertise either. As far as I know they don't have any full-fledged faculties of occupational health. There are different programmes and there is a programme being developed at one of the community colleges as well, but there's really very little expertise, despite the fact that the experts tell us that they suspect about 80 per cent of all cancers are environmentally caused. That includes smoking, I appreciate that, but there are many, many types of cancer that we simply don't know how to cure. Perhaps we could be more productive if we spent time on preventing cancer rather than trying to cure it.

I think that's really the direction we should take in Ontario. Those research dollars are not being pumped into it. In 1975-1976, the occupational health branch had a budget that as far as I can figure was 0.05 per cent of the total health budget. Well, that's not a serious approach at solving the occupational health problem in Ontario.

I'd like to talk a little bit about that Matachewan mine, partly because it's a repeat of what happened at the Reeves mine which is in the riding of Nickel Belt. On March 10, 1976, an air quality assessment report was made by the occupational health protection branch of the Ministry of Health. I'd like to quote from that report. This is on March

10, 1976: "1. Generally the personal samples were higher than area samples."

For your enlightenment, Mr. Speaker, they are talking about area samples and personal samples. Area sample is a sample taken at a particular location in the plant; a personal sample is a sample taken from your lapel—it could be on a jacket—which is very close to the mouth and nose of the worker, and that indicates whether or not there are asbestos fibres on the worker's person.

1. Generally the personal samples were higher than area samples. Some operations in the quality control room, particularly the dumping of asbestos on benches without local exhaust, could be hazardous.

Mr. Speaker, if ever I've seen an irresponsible statement, it was that "the dumping of asbestos on benches without local exhaust could be hazardous." We know it's hazardous, and here we have the inspector saying "it could be hazardous." That's irresponsible.

Also dry sweeping is carried out in the mill by cleaning crews. Industrial vacuum cleaners have been purchased and are in use.

If the industrial vacuums have been purchased and are in use why is dry sweeping being carried out? It's as though they didn't understand what the dangers of asbestos dust are. There are certain causes of asbestosis and of lung cancer, and it takes very few fibres to cause those diseases, and once they get in the lungs they stay there forever. They cannot be taken out.

Incoming air through vents without baffles on the fifth floor agitates the dust on the floors, machinery, etc. This is shown in the area where air sample was taken.

Can you imagine that, first of all, there are no baffles on the vents, and secondly it agitates the dust on the floor? Why is the dust on the floor to start with? Obviously it shouldn't be.

Here are some of the air sampling results, Mr. Speaker. The number of fibres, the threshold limit value as they call it in Ontario, is two fibres greater than five micrometres in length per cubic centimetre of air. In other words, in Ontario in a cubic centimetre of air there cannot be more than two asbestos fibres. These are some of the bad ones.

On the fifth floor I-beam No. 12, 2.6 fibres. That was on the area samples.

Personal samples: There are names attached to these samples; I won't give the names. Floor attendant, 3.8; instrumentation



technician, 4.5; cleaning, 2.5; floor attendant, 6.3; conveyor attendant, 5.5; quality control room, 2.9; and a towmotor driver, 1.8. That was on March 4 and 5.

**Mr. Martel:** I think that's when they shut down for the weekend so they could clean it up. Yes, they shut it down.

**Mr. Laughren:** That was after having shut down for the inspection, of course.

**Mr. Martel:** They cleaned it up first. What else is new?

**Mr. Laughren:** That was on March 4 and 5. On March 16, in a report—I will quote some comments:

The results showed that 12 of 21 samples were in excess of the standard of two fibres per cubic centimetre of air. At the time of the survey the plant was processing from 70 to 130 tons of ore per hour compared to a designed capacity of 175 tons per hour.

So you see that those kind of levels were reached by only operating at approximately half capacity. Also, some other observations from the report:

The major source of dust appeared to be leakage around vibrating screens and faulty or punctured flexible connections on screens, sifters and other equipment. [Further observations.] During the period of the survey, it was noted that general house-keeping improved considerably due to the conversion from dry sweeping to portable vacuum cleaners, one of which was assigned to each eight floors.

I ask you, why was it necessary to convert from dry sweeping when it should never have occurred in the first place and they know that? United Asbestos knows that. Every company involved in the production of asbestos knows that. They couldn't help but know it.

A wet plugging mill designed to mix the dry tailings with water prior to discharge to the tailings conveyor was malfunctioning and at times resulted in dry tailings being delivered to the outside dump area.

I am going to come back to that one. Results of the survey:

It can be seen that of 12 personal samples, nine were above two fibres per cubic centimetre and out of nine area or fixed position samples, three were in excess of the recommended standard.

I can tell you that that's an extremely dangerous situation.

In a report by the Minister of the Environment dated Nov. 10, 1975, Mr. P. R. Williams, a professional engineer of the ministry office in Timmins, had this to say when writing to the mine manager, Mr. Dave Cook. He said:

After the end of December, 1975, all this work having been carried out in accordance with the specifications laid down by the Ministry of the Environment and the provisional certificate of approval, should a failure occur of the plug mill, subject to the preamble under section 9, regulation 15, of the Environmental Protection Act, it may be found necessary to cause your operation to be shut down. This would be the case should the plug mill fail and no other suitable means of controlling the dust at that time can be made available. I must therefore advise you to look seriously into the possibility of installing a second plug mill if at the end of December it is found that such occurrences have become quite frequent.

That's why I said I was going to come back to that comment. I quote again—and this is dated March 16:

A wet plugging mill designed to mix the dry tailings with water prior to the discharge of the tailings conveyor was malfunctioning and at times resulted in dry tailings being delivered to the outside dump area.

So, in November you have the Minister of the Environment telling the mine that they must do that or they will be required to shut down. Then in March a report by the same Ministry of the Environment—no, Ministry of Natural Resources, saying that the plug mill is not operating. If that isn't justification for requiring United Asbestos to shut down the operation immediately, maintain all the workers on full salary and clean up the operation, I don't know what further proof we need, because that really is what must be done.

Obviously, the companies in the asbestos field are irresponsible. In Ontario, in 1976, we don't need this kind of buccaneer and they simply must be given the proper kind of incentive to make them clean up. I see no other incentive than to tell them, "You pay those workers full salary and you clean up. When you meet the standards set in Ontario, we'll allow you to open and operate."

**Mr. Martel:** I consider them criminals. Maybe the government is, too, though, for allowing it.

**Mr. Laughren:** The government in this province has always ignored the role of the worker in occupational health. That's a serious mistake because no one has more at stake in good occupational health practices than the workers themselves. It simply does not make sense to continue to ignore them. Not only that, there's the simple case of the dignity of the worker. He simply must have a say in those factors which can affect his life. It simply is ludicrous to continue the way we've done. We really must do what Saskatchewan has done, which is legislate occupational health committees in the workplace. It simply must be done. We must get tougher in Ontario with the offenders.

In British Columbia, Mr. Terry Ison, who was chairman of the Worker's Compensation Board last year, penalized Cominco, the subsidiary of CPR, \$28,000 a month until it cleaned up its act in its smelting plant; \$28,000 a month. The company surely had to think about that. I probably don't need to tell members that when the government changed hands in BC, regrettably, Mr. Ison was fired by Bill Bennett. We can't treat companies like that in a Social Credit regime or in a Progressive Conservative regime.

**Mr. Martel:** Those inspectors ruled.

**Mr. Laughren:** The government's attitude seems to be always one of protecting the worker and—

**Mr. Cassidy:** Protecting the company.

**Mr. Laughren:** I'm sorry; protecting the company.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Never protect the worker.

**Mr. Laughren:** Thank you for correcting me on that.

**Mr. Wildman:** Subjecting the worker.

**Mr. Laughren:** Subjecting the worker and protecting the company, and it carries through the different ministries.

It was interesting a couple of weeks or a month ago, my colleagues and I met with a doctor from the Workmen's Compensation Board to talk about chronic bronchitis. The smelter workers in Sudbury, at the Inco smelter, have a very high incidence of chronic bronchitis and he admitted this. As a matter of fact, there is a relationship of 22.6 per cent versus 7.8 per cent of workers with chronic bronchitis in the smelter versus those not in the smelter.

I asked the doctor why he did not make a rule or suggest to the Workmen's Compensation Board and to the Minister of Labour

that, if the incidence of an industrial disease was statistically significant, the employer be required to assume that all incidences of that disease were caused by the workplace and compensate the workers accordingly. He said that some of them perhaps didn't get it because of the workplace conditions. There's a knee-jerk reaction to protect the employer rather than the employee. I can't think of a better incentive for an employer than to be told, "Even though we know that some workers will get chronic bronchitis if they never went near the smelter, the chances of them getting chronic bronchitis are double or triple if they do work in the smelter, and we're going to assume that everybody with chronic bronchitis who works in the smelter will receive compensation benefits." I can't think of a better way to have the company clean up its act than under those kinds of conditions.

[5:45]

I really must say a few words about the Minister of Natural Resources. I shall attempt to restrain myself, but I can tell you this much. I don't need to look at the financial contributions to his election campaign to know where they came from.

Given the Elliot Lake conditions; given the Reeves mine; given the Matachewan situation, that man has lost the respect of the workers and, I suspect, if they were honest about it, the respect of his colleagues and certainly of us. He really has no right to continue as the Minister of Natural Resources because of the control he has over the mining industry, and the lives and health of workers in that industry. He is simply a blemish on the body politic in Ontario.

He spoke so clearly serving the interests of the mining companies and of the pulp and paper industry, that I'm offended by his presence in this chamber. The sooner he's got out of it, the happier I would be, and the better off the workers in Ontario would be. We can have no respect for someone who has prostituted his position the way the Minister of Natural Resources has.

We expect to differ ideologically with the Minister of Natural Resources on the ownership of those resources in Ontario. We don't think we forever have to witness the blatant disregard for the health of miners in Ontario, those same miners who create so much wealth and have given Ontario the standard of living that it has.

I'd say without any hesitation, Mr. Speaker, that I regard the Minister of Natural Resources as symbolic of the internal rot of



the Progressive Conservative government in Ontario.

It's more than that, Mr. Speaker, and I will try to restrain myself. He is the reality in Ontario of the subservience of this government to the private sector at whatever that price has to be. If that price is more expensive private labs rather than the more efficient public labs, so be it. If that price is private cable TV operators at the expense of a proper ETV system in Ontario, so be it. And, regrettably, if that price is the health of the workers, so be it as well.

I tell you, Mr. Speaker, he must be removed from that portfolio. One of the biggest surprises I had after the election was when the Premier left the Minister of Natural Resources in that portfolio, because he clearly cost the government a considerable number of seats in Ontario, certainly many in northern Ontario, and he will continue to do that for them. I won't say more, because I simply can't contain myself when I talk about that man.

A problem related to occupational health is the Workmen's Compensation Board. All members here agree there are administrative problems with the board. I could tell you many horror stories. I won't, but I'll give you one example.

I wrote to the Workmen's Compensation Board in December, 1975, to appeal a decision of the board not to pay benefits for a silicosis claim. I was very surprised when I received a copy of a reply which awarded that worker a claim for industrial hearing loss.

That's the kind of thing we cope with with the Workmen's Compensation Board. We simply must replace that board with a comprehensive social insurance scheme like they have in New Zealand. That is the policy of the New Democratic Party in Ontario. That simply must be done. We can't continue with the maladministration of the compensation board as it is now constituted.

There are policy problems with the board as well as the administrative ones. Their policy on compensation for industrial accidents is bad enough, but when it comes to industrial disease they are simply terrible. It's partly because they do not have the expertise. They know it, and they feel vulnerable.

I think they feel a sense of not being able to cope with the problem. I think that's one of the reasons for the incredible delays of six and eight months when it comes to industrial disease problems.

The pre-silicotic problem is an example. Miners have worked at Elliot Lake. They go to work at Sudbury. The doctor examines them and finds out that there is dust affecting the lungs; they call it pre-silicotic. The doctor says, "You'd better not go back underground any more."

He applies to the compensation board for a pension. The compensation board says, "No, that is not nearly enough indication of silicosis. Go back underground." They beat him with a stick to go back underground.

"Come back when you've got full-blown silicosis." This is virtually what they are telling the man. And the doctor says, "Well I don't think you should go there." The company says, "You are not going back underground because we don't want a compensation case on our hands and we don't have any surface work for you." And the man is unemployed. No compensation available to him, despite the promises of the various ministers about Elliot Lake.

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: They have reneged on their promises to rehabilitate people who have worked at Elliot Lake and have dust effects on their lungs. They don't know how to deal with the whole problem of silicosis, particularly when it's pre-silicotic, the early stages.

There are others, of course. The whole problem of chronic bronchitis, which I mentioned. There's every indication that that is caused by occupational health problems and the government really isn't dealing with that. The whole industrial deafness problem the government hasn't dealt with. It had a beautiful opportunity to establish a rehabilitation centre in northern Ontario at the Burwash facility. No way, the government just ignored it.

They won't do anything about it, despite the Premier's promise on the eve of the election that there would be a rehabilitation centre in Sudbury. They have totally reneged on that. Now they will say there will be a few beds in the new hospital. That was not the promise; the Premier has reneged on it.

I shall try and be quick. There are a number of other problems which bother me besides the occupational health and the compensation. Before I leave compensation, I really must say something about total disfigurement.

When a person is totally disfigured in an accident it destroys that person emotionally, psychologically and almost physically. I know someone with gross disfigurement very, very



well. That person received a cash settlement for gross disfigurement of \$29,000 and now receives a pension of around \$600 a month—\$600 plus. It is still based on his earnings at the time the accident occurred. Compare that to an incident in the United States where someone who had his leg amputated in an accident received over \$1 million settlement through the courts.

I am not suggesting we go back to the court system for settling compensation cases; on the contrary, I wouldn't do that. But it's an indication that the board doesn't seem to appreciate what gross disfigurement does to someone. I have seen a case close up and I know the person very well; it bothers me a great deal to see that kind of a settlement, and what that disfigurement has done to that person in terms of being a human being. I don't want to dwell on it but I can tell you it bothers me more than any other aspect of the compensation board.

One of the issues I would like very much to dwell on is the whole question of unorganized communities in northern Ontario. We have talked about this before in this chamber. Indeed, a couple of years ago a bill was introduced—the Northern Centres Act, I think they call it, Bill 102—which was to recognize the needs of some of the small communities. Many of us took issue with that bill because it really didn't suggest that there was a solution to the problem; they just said we would recognize community councils and give the right to collect taxes locally. This, I suppose, in a way, was a beginning, but a lot of the communities felt that really wasn't enough.

The government conducted some hearings all across northern Ontario and I think they were horrified at the enormity of the problem because they came back down to Toronto and at the next session of the Legislature they let that bill die. They never reintroduced it to this chamber, and it should have been reintroduced in an improved form, that's what those public meetings were for.

Now, when we question the Treasurer about the bill, or when letters go to him, he writes back or responds in the Legislature that "they are furthering the consultative process." Well, that's not a bad phrase I suppose, but it doesn't mean anything, and the northern communities are still there, they are not going to go away. There is no proper method of servicing them or indeed there is no proper method of controlling growth in those communities, and that's one of the failures too.

The problem, very simply, is that they lack services—fire protection, health, water—and

some kind of voice they can speak to government with. We know all the arguments, those of us who have been here for a while at least, and how the residents in those communities pay the same sales tax, same income tax, same gasoline tax, same OHIP premiums as the rest of us, but don't get the return in services.

Back in June, 1973, the Ministry of the Treasury and Economics presented a brief to the Ontario cabinet on the problem, keeping in mind that was three years ago, before Bill 102 was introduced, and in that brief they made some recommendations about the problem, and as a result of that brief Bill 102 was born. I assume that's how it got there. The brief that was presented to cabinet made sense, indicated what the problems were, why the people in those communities were dissatisfied and what could be done about it. But then the government, when it does understand the problem and goes across northern Ontario, backs off because I think it is afraid it is going to cost the government too much money.

I simply say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the government simply must get on with some kind of legislation to provide a voice to those northern communities and to provide some kind of services to them. They simply must do that. By avoiding it, the problem is getting worse. It really is. There are people moving into those unorganized communities. The more the people move into them, the more demands are going to be placed on the government for services. My phone rings continually with calls from unorganized communities because they are not getting the services that they think they are entitled to.

Right now I can tell you of a community where there are going to be six new homes built this summer, with no controls on the area at all, no proper road into it, no hydro in it, and no water supply. Yet there are going to be six new homes—five or six new homes—built in there this summer, and the government sits back and watches it happen. It's going to continue to happen, it will accelerate, unless the government moves in with some kind of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I see that it is 6 o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member have further remarks to make?

Mr. Laughren: Yes, I did have a few, not many.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.



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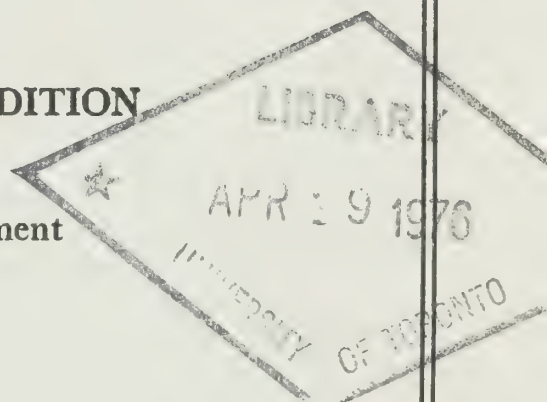
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# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament



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Thursday, April 1, 1976

Evening Session

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Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe  
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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## LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

### THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

**Mr. Speaker:** When the House rose at 6 o'clock, the hon. member for Nickel Belt was taking part in the Throne Speech debate.

**Mr. Laughren:** I shall begin to continue with my remarks, although I must say that with three Conservative members in the Legislature, I am not inclined to continue.

**Mr. Hodgson:** There are five listening to you.

**Mr. Laughren:** Yes, that's correct. Which party forms the government in this House?

**Mr. Hodgson:** I thought you'd have more members to hear what you had to say.

**Mr. Laughren:** I see. Maybe if the Conservative government in this province listened to the opposition more they wouldn't be in the predicament they're in today.

**Mr. Warner:** Sound advice.

**Mr. Laughren:** And we happen to outnumber the members of the Conservative Party in this Legislature at this time as well.

**Mr. Nixon:** The Boy Scouts in the gallery are listening anyway.

**An hon. member:** Don't bawl him out, Floyd, he's here.

**Mr. Young:** He's here.

**Mr. Laughren:** We outnumber you seven to six at this point.

**Mr. Nixon:** We outnumber them every day.

**Mr. Bain:** Let's form the government.

**Mr. Wildman:** It will be on Monday.

**Mr. Speaker:** I wonder if the hon. member would continue his remarks on the Throne Speech debate.

**Mr. Hodgson:** He hasn't got any more.

**Mr. Nixon:** Good old Rene. Good old faithful Rene.

**Mr. Laughren:** Mr. Speaker, it's difficult with provocative interjections.

When I concluded my remarks before the supper hour, I was talking about the problems of the unorganized communities and I'd like to move from the general to the specific and talk about some of the problems of one particular community in Nickel Belt. That community is called Gogama. I've talked about Gogama many times in the Legislature but as long as the government continues to ignore the rather serious problems there I shall, of course, be obligated to continue to talk about it.

Gogama is a community of about 800 people, approximately 120 miles north of Sudbury, just off Highway 144, which runs to Timmins. A few years ago when the government built a new highway to Timmins, they did not take the highway into the town. They bypassed it by two miles, gave an Esso station permission to build a service centre at the corner and effectively cut off any tourist potential for the town of Gogama. That's one thing they did.

In 1962 there was a train wreck in Gogama and there was a chemical spill as a result of that train wreck. Those chemicals seeped into the water table in Gogama and polluted the water supply. Since that time the water table has become polluted even further by a gasoline leakage of an underground storage tank and as well, more seriously, by nitrates which come from the open bottom septic systems prevalent in the town.

**Mr. Nixon:** What systems?

**Mr. Laughren:** Sewage systems, septic systems. The people in the town—it's a railway town—

**Mr. Nixon:** We don't have open bottoms in Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

**Mr. Laughren:** —and a lot of the septic systems they've built are built with railway ties and have open bottoms.

**Mr. Nixon:** They give a lot less trouble, I understand.

**Mr. Laughren:** Yes, that's right. And there have been a lot of problems with the water supply since it is very badly polluted. In June of 1975, the Ministry of the Environment conducted a survey of the water supply in the town. I should first tell you that there are three kinds of water supply in Gogama: There is the communal supply provided by CNR because of that chemical spill I mentioned. There is the communal supply provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources to their employees only. And there is the supply provided by wells, either sand point or drilled wells. It is the latter that are so badly polluted.

In the report of June 1975, the Ministry of the Environment had some comments to make in their summary. They said:

1. The private water supplies in Gogama are in general contaminated by nitrate. Both sand points and drill wells were found to be contaminated.

In case you didn't know, nitrates are injurious to pregnant women and to infants and should not be drunk.

2. From the map prepared at the time of the 1973 survey, it is evident that the nitrate is spreading and increasing in concentration. It appears that the contaminated ground water is moving radially away from the centre of the town towards the lake and in doing so is moving into areas which were previously free of contamination.

So, it's obvious that the contamination problem is getting worse and it may eventually affect the lake from which the communal water supplies are drawn.

3. In total 57 water supplies recorded excessive nitrate levels; 10 were bacteriologically contaminated, two showed phenolic contamination, and 23 had excessive levels of sodium. High levels of chlorides and free ammonia were also noted in several systems.

So there is no question about the contamination of the area; that's been well known.

The response of the government, a year or so ago, was to agree to install a community water-tap. They extended the water supply system of the Ministry of Natural Resources underneath the tracks to the other part of the town so that people could go to the tap and draw themselves some unpolluted water. It is a continuing tribute to the then Minister of the Environment, (Mr. W. Newman) that

he saw fit to put in a community tap in a community of 800 people where the temperature in the wintertime often drops to -20F or -30F. During the last winter the tap, I might add, has frozen on a number of occasions, not surprisingly. I still think—

**Mr. Bain:** Better watch it, the former minister will flavour it and make it into an ice machine to show how much compassion he has.

**Mr. Laughren:** I still think that he missed a grand opportunity for publicity when he didn't incorporate the tap into a statue of himself.

**An hon. member:** It's not too late.

**Mr. Laughren:** I think he could have done it. When the survey was being taken in June, 1975, this is one of the observations made by those people who did the survey, and I quote:

Some citizens were highly concerned with the quality of their water, even to the point of being brutally hostile. Many felt that no action would be taken no matter what results were obtained. Of the concerned citizens many complained that their children were sick more than normal, which necessitated finding an alternative source of supply. This means carrying water with a great deal of inconvenience.

Well, it's a little hard to accept in this day and age, 1976, that a community of that size has to carry its own water year-round. In the survey, 64 of the dwellings surveyed relied on sand point and a large number of these supplies were contaminated by nitrates.

Thirty of the supplies tested had nitrate levels exceeding 1 part per million. Eighteen supplies had nitrate levels greater than 10 parts per million, which is where the Ontario government draws the line for health purposes. In total, 47, or 73 per cent, of those sand points tested had elevated nitrate levels. And then they concluded:

It would appear from the results that water obtained from wells in the Gogama area is no less contaminated than that from sand points, because a lot of people in the community thought that if they drilled wells of a considerable depth, they would avoid the contamination of the water table which is only 12 or 15 feet down. But that just does not work and it's getting worse.

The conclusion of the summary was as follows:



Many private supplies are contaminated by nitrates in quantities as high as 25 parts per million. Contamination has increased as many areas free of nitrate two years ago now have levels exceeding the permissible level. Contamination is moving down the hydraulic gradient following the slope of the land, away from the centre of the community to the lake. With the continued use of cesspools and septic tanks in Gogama, and the trend towards increasing water consumption, it seems evident that nitrate levels will continue to be high in the areas presently suffering from high levels, and that other areas will become contaminated as the water moves slowly to the lake.

And finally the report makes two recommendations; very simple, very straightforward. They are as follows:

1. In Gogama, water from ground water supplies should not be used by pregnant women or infants.

2. A communal water supply system utilizing a source that is free from contamination should be developed for the community. There are no interim measures that can be taken to correct the existing problems on an individual basis.

Mr. Speaker, that report was made by the Ministry of the Environment last June. That the ministry still has not acted upon it is an indication of their attitude towards small communities in Ontario. They simply must put in communal water supplies in communities like that.

That was what I was talking about earlier—the failure of the government to bring in legislation for the small unorganized communities—and Gogama is a classic example. When a problem does occur, they have no choice about altering the priorities of the community. They have no say in the priorities of the community. They have no tax base. Unless the provincial government, through the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr), moves in and says, “Look, this is ridiculous, we don’t think that you should have a communal tap in 1976 and years beyond. We will put in a communal water supply,” then nothing would change. But it simply must be done; their own ministry tells them that it has to be done and yet they seem to neglect it.

I hope that as the years go by and the people in places like Gogama continue to live under these inadequate conditions, slowly but surely the government will get the message that that simply is not acceptable. I

cannot imagine a community south of the French River existing with those kinds of facilities. It just would not be tolerated. The media would blow it sky high. The public would be so incensed, they would simply demand it be changed. It would be raised in the Legislature and it just wouldn’t continue. But here we have a community in the north that’s small, it’s unorganized, no municipal structure whatsoever, and the government feels they can ignore it. Well, that simply is no longer good enough. I do hope that we’ll reach the point where government realizes those problems are serious.

[There is one final issue I would like to deal with, Mr. Speaker, and that has to do with the whole question of sex discrimination in the Province of Ontario. The one area that bothers me most in the whole question of discrimination against women, is that of sex stereotyping in our schools. I think that is where a lot of the problems begin.

I’m assuming, Mr. Speaker, that you wouldn’t accept the Marxist analysis—the requirement that there be a low-paid pool of unemployed or potentially unemployed labour in the province and that women fulfill that role adequately. Assuming you wouldn’t accept that, I’m going to say that sex discrimination is an area that should be dealt with by this government.

There is still no serious attempt by the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) to remove sex stereotyping from the texts in our schools. Until we do so, we’re going to have a continuation of the kind of expectations that have been held in the past on the roles that women should play in our society. Those stereotypes are no longer valid. We know what the statistics are in terms of the jobs that women are doing. We know also that they are not being paid as well for the jobs that they are doing. That’s the second point that is so very important and that’s the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

I stress to you, Mr. Speaker, I am not saying equal pay for equal work, I am saying equal pay for work of equal value, because the principle of equal pay for equal work is already enshrined in Ontario legislation. But employers, both in the private and public sector, are allowed to merely classify jobs as being different and pay them at different rates, and that’s not acceptable. There must be some kind of commission or task force struck by the Ministry of Labour to determine what jobs are of equal value. It’s a tough task and a very difficult thing to do, but if we’re serious about equity and we’re



serious about removing sex discrimination in the workplace, it's simply got to be done.

Just ignoring it or saying, as the present Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. MacBeth) said about a year ago, that "society is not ready for that kind of legislation yet," means it never will be accomplished with that kind of attitude. The government should be prepared to take the lead—start in the public sector and show how it could be done.

[8:15]

The third terribly important issue is day care. Until we have a system of universal day care in Ontario there never will be equal opportunities for women in the workplace. I know it's considered expensive. There's a danger that if it was to be complemented by this government it would be done on a cost basis in which only low income people would be allowed to utilize it through a means test.

That's the wrong way. All women with families in the Province of Ontario should have access to day care. The sociological and educational benefits are enormous. At the present time it's just not available to people.

The constraint programme announced by the various ministries is discriminating against these kinds of services. It's discrimination against women as well. Four or five years ago, the whole question of sex discrimination was very popular. It was appropriate to talk about the whole problem four or five years ago. Since then it seems to have died as an issue in Ontario, probably not just Ontario but other jurisdictions as well.

The death blow was probably International Women's Year in Canada which was a farce in which the various efforts of governments were pitiful. Very little meaningful legislation came out of International Women's Year. It allowed the various governments of different jurisdictions to make token gestures to women but really do nothing at all.

There is a great temptation in Ontario now to put it on the back burner and say: "Ah, let it simmer for a while. It's really not an issue any more." I assure you, Mr. Speaker, we are not going to allow the government of this province to put the whole question of sex discrimination on a back burner and ignore it as an issue in Ontario.

I see the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) with a rather supercilious sneer on his face. I can assure him that it is a continuing issue in Ontario and it's time he realized it.

**Mr. Nixon:** How can he say that about you?

**Mr. Roy:** Keep your cool. Go get him, Bob

**Mr. Laughren:** I'd like to quote from Statistics Canada if I might, I know that you have a great respect for that agency.

**Mr. Nixon:** We have a choice?

**Mr. Laughren:** We're talking about the whole question of how equality for women has moved backward in the last few years. Despite all the efforts of a very large number of people there really has been no progress made in fact. I quote:

The wage gap between full-time male and full-time female workers is growing. Figures in Statistics Canada show that in 1971 the average man earned 44 per cent more than the average woman. By 1973, the average man earned 45.1 per cent more.

In 1973, more women were working in traditional female occupations than there had been in a decade earlier. In 1963, 30 in every 100 Canadian working women held clerical jobs. In 1974, 36 out of every 100 Canadian working women held clerical jobs. Although women hold more than 70 per cent of all clerical jobs, men in the same field still make more money.

The argument that is used, Mr. Speaker, and I'm sure you've heard it sitting in the chair as long as you have, is that if women would only improve themselves, get more education, then of course they could earn equal money. Perhaps you've heard that argument. Actually, the Canadian female labour force is slightly better educated than the male labour force.

In 1972, 26 per cent of all women entered the labour force with a high school diploma compared with only 18.3 per cent of the men.

Here is the one that really you would appreciate, Mr. Speaker. I extracted this from Statistics Canada just for you because I knew you would appreciate it.

In 1970, the last year for which figures are available, the average employment earnings of full-time male babysitters were more than twice those of full-time female babysitters.

Interjection.

**Mr. Laughren:** The whole question of sex discrimination pervades all areas of employment and very little is being done. The reason I think this government should be chastised is that it can do something about it. Do members know what it did? It appointed the Ontario Council on the Status of Women; it has a co-ordinator of women's programmes in Ontario dealing with women



crown employees. That organization tabled a report on Oct. 29, 1975, and there are some very interesting statistics in that report. It provides some statistics.

It's a good report. The organization provides some recommendations, very specific, and it is going to be very interesting to see just what the government does with those recommendations.

I extracted, arbitrarily, some of the statistics from that report. In the report the authors took a look at the various ministries and organizations within the government to determine what kind of salaries women were earning in the public sector. I would like to look first at the Management Board secretariat. It's a very interesting one because it wields a lot of power in the Ontario government.

For men in the Management Board secretariat: Under \$11,000, zero people. Zero men earned under \$11,000 in the Management Board secretariat, while for women, there were 11 or 46 per cent. Earning over \$23,000, there were zero women but there were 56 per cent of the men in the Management Board secretariat earning over \$23,000.

To summarize, Mr. Speaker, zero percentage of men in the Management Board secretariat earned under \$11,000; 56 per cent earned over \$23,000. For women, 46 per cent earned less than \$11,000 and zero per cent earned over \$23,000.

For the Ministry of Natural Resources; earning under \$15,000 were 69.5 per cent of the men and 98.2 per cent of the women. Over \$15,000, were 35.5 per cent of the men and 1.8 per cent of the women. Those are two examples I extracted—a couple of the worst examples—and it is going to be very interesting to see to what extent the government responds to those recommendations.

I assume there will be another annual report sometime in 1976 and at that point it is going to be very interesting to see to what extent the government took seriously the recommendations of the committee.

I would warn the government that unless it does take it seriously, it has truly created a token organization and that would simply not be tolerated by the civil service. I might add that the Ontario Public Service Employees Union is starting to make very serious noises about this problem as well. The government does have an obligation to look after its own employees and to lead the way in removing sex discrimination from the Province of Ontario.

Finally, I would like to give members a gentle reminder, as I conclude my remarks in the Throne Speech debate, as to what our amendment to the Throne Speech says. I ask members to think about it, and I ask them to consider who but an incurable Tory could not agree with it. I would like to repeat it.

Mr. Lewis moved that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Hon. the Lieutenant Governor now before the Legislature be amended by adding thereto the following words:

But this Legislature regrets the inability of this government to meet its responsibility for a necessary programme as a result of the deterioration of the fiscal capacity of the province during successive Progressive Conservative governments.

And, further, this Legislature regrets the failure of the government to provide in the Speech from the Throne any significant proposals to deal with the present problems of: (a) occupational health and the lack of adequate safeguards for the health and safety of workers; (b) need to preserve agricultural land; (c) move for a more equitable distribution of economic opportunity throughout the province and in particular to northern and eastern Ontario; (d) need for job creation to offset rising unemployment; (e) inadequate housing supply and rising mortgage interest rates.

And this Legislature moreover regrets the mismanagement of the government's restraint programme leading to (a) the failure to develop an overall policy for the delivery of health care services, especially as exemplified by the closing of small community hospitals and public laboratories; (b) the failure to respond adequately to financial needs for vital social services, particularly as exemplified in the inadequate funding arrangements offered to Children's Aid Societies.

And further still, this Legislature is opposed to the endless burdening of Ontario taxpayers, exemplified both by the excessive increase in the municipal property taxes which will result directly from this government's policy, and by the additional concessions to the mining industry, specifically set out in the speech of the Hon. the Lieutenant Governor.

Therefore, the government has lost the confidence of this House.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to be able to participate in this debate, because it is one of those rare occasions when the opposition can express both personal and party philosophies.

Until I have reason to believe otherwise I am prepared to accept the fact that the men and women opposite are, taken singly, of good will and good reputation in their dealings with children. I assume, with reason I am sure, that they have the best interests of their own children at heart, that they are protective of their neighbours' youngsters and that in some abstract way each thinks of himself or herself as a friend to children generally.

It is, therefore, the more baffling to understand what happens to those sentiments when these people combine to become the government; because a description of their treat-



ment of the young, the elderly, the poor, the sick, the needy, would give Dickens pause; because their philosophy in regard to the helpless has more in common with John D. Rockefeller than with Dr. Spock or with any known set of ethical values.

**Mr. Nixon:** How true.

**Mr. Laughren:** You are against capitalism too?

**Mrs. Campbell:** I believe that at a time like this it behoves each of us not to shirk from a description, however uncool, that tells the truth. Not now, not when we are talking about what is happening to desperate men and women, to frightened and needful children; not when we are looking at a government whose sets of values and priorities is beyond the belief of rational people.

Let us examine some of these priorities. We have been able to wrench from this most secretive of governments the information that \$67,500 was spent for refurbishing the vice-regal suite, including \$50,000 for two powder rooms.

[8.30]

**Mr. Laughren:** Albert, did you know that?

**Mrs. Campbell:** We have learned, too, that the government has also expended \$19,000 to purchase 329 plants which are to grace or are gracing the regional offices of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications; and that an additional \$30,000 contract has been let for the care and seeding of these tender vines.

**Mr. Nixon:** What, to water the plants?

**Mrs. Campbell:** Oh, they are being fed too.

**Mr. Gaunt:** And they are being talked to, don't forget that. They talk to them.

**Mrs. Campbell:** That figure is, of course, only for two years, with more to come later we assume, on the basis that nothing is too good for a split-leaf philodendron.

**Mr. Nixon:** Or a dieffenbachia.

**Mrs. Campbell:** We have already heard of the \$9,500 car which is given the deputy in a ministry which is closing facilities to treat the sick.

We wonder how many more of these vehicles that guzzle gas at an astounding rate are secreted in various garages around the province—

**Mr. Nixon:** They ought to all be auctioned.

**Mrs. Campbell:** —multiplied by how many other cars and luxurious parks only God and this government, the latter tending to think it is the former, know.

The government sometimes shows a heart-warming concern for the hygiene and comfort of certain segments of the population. I shall, in time—and over a period of time because the answer won't come easily—be asking the Minister of Government Services (Mrs. Scrivener) to tell us all more about a certain bathroom—not a powder room this time—which has been installed in an expensive building at Bloor and Avenue Rd. to save one person of the election expenses committee the ugly necessity of stepping across the hall to share the facilities used by the other male tenants of that floor, fewer than 10 in number.

**Mr. Nixon:** Why doesn't he go before he leaves home?

**Mrs. Campbell:** A question you might ask him.

Interjections.

**Mrs. Campbell:** All of that is understandable in a government which has husbanded its resources as this one has not. Luxurious plumbing, expensive green thumbs, may all have their place, but that place, as any sensible government would know, is way down the list of a very large number of priorities.

**Mr. Worton:** Give him a Johnny-on-the-Spot.

**Mr. Cunningham:** Sounds like a royal flush.

**Mrs. Campbell:** I thank my colleague for that very interesting remark.

Let us look now at that part of the population which is being used by this government in a shocking and careless effort to shore up its sagging fortunes resulting from their own bad management and their own profligacy during at least the last five years.

We turned, first, to the sick and we considered the effect of hospital closings on them—an effect that government patently did not consider. Playing the most outrageous numbers game, the government has swaggered into hospitals, ordered them cut and then, as an afterthought, told them that if they could come up with alternatives the government might allow them to live in some form or another.

Were these cuts made in consultation with individual communities on the basis of re-



ports and research the government always claims it needs? No indeed. It seems, on examination, that the cuts were made on the basis of little more than pulling names out of a hat. In fact, the ministry has had to climb down on some of the more foolish moves it made with such fanfare.

I wonder, when I read of what the minister said about reasons for some of the closings, whether indeed even the population figures that they're talking about are back in the 1971 period. In any event, there is little of confidence in any of the reasons given for the government actions.

I find it difficult in one respect because I have not suffered, specifically, a hospital closing. However, in the riding of St. George, there are over 1,000 people who are accustomed to using the facilities of Doctors Hospital. This government has threatened to close that hospital in Toronto, which isn't unique in the efficiency, in the budget-mindedness of its care. In view of certain developments which have now taken place, one is left to conclude that there is a possibility that this hospital will remain as a medical centre.

One of the things that I can't understand about that is that when the hospital was asked to produce a model to incorporate a medical centre and to incorporate various stages of care, that was to be at the cost of \$11 million. That figure was then bandied around by the minister to explain that this was the reason for closing the hospital, because they should not expend this sum of money. I wonder if there is still in this ministry, the person or persons who recommended the expenditure of \$1 million for this hospital for renovations last September. That is planning?

That is what, of course, is so disgraceful about the way in which this government has been functioning. They are still repairing and renovating air conditioning and the rest at that hospital with that million dollars. They may have stopped doing it now, but they were still doing it up to a short time ago.

What are we talking about? I say to you, Mr. Speaker, it is a sorry business. In this case, this government is playing fast and loose with the truth and with reason. It is doing so on the calculated gamble that the ethnic community served by the Doctors Hospital will be too stunned to vote against it. It is a sorry business, not worthy of any citizen of Ontario, let alone of the people who pretend to govern it.

I was interested in hearing the acting minister discussing the approach which she said had been made over the past decade to governors of hospitals to come forward with some

suggestions, lest something serious happen to them. I don't understand it. What suggestions were made to the people of Durham in this last decade, when they were permitted to add an extension to that hospital in 1972? This is planning? This is a government with some kind of management?

Also, the acting minister today sought to explain this question of the \$16-million shortfall. Just imagine a government, having approved the budgets of hospitals, coming along and saying: "Gee, we're sorry, we have run out of money. Sorry about that."

The minister explained that the problem was that the hospitals are on a calendar year and the ministry on a fiscal year, which is different. I would have thought that ministry would have known that; surely they have known it for a long time. Yet they have the audacity to come to us for \$85 million in supplementary estimates and they don't know that they should have added that additional \$16 million.

I would say that I think the acting minister herself was deeply embarrassed by the position in which she found herself today, and one does not blame her in any way for the predicament in which she finds herself. As a matter of fact, I had occasion to call the acting minister to ask her if she didn't think she needed some help, having taken on this ministry along with that of Labour and, if she did, I knew a good psychiatrist.

I won't say that she said she was thinking about taking me up on the offer, but in any event she did find she was deeply involved.

Interjections.

[8:45]

**Mrs. Campbell:** One reason the minister gave for the cut was that the province had invested in non-acute beds, including those in nursing homes. The truth is a little less rosy, as usual with this government.

This year the nursing home operators asked for increases of \$3.26 per diem and, according to the ministry itself, justified increases of \$3 per diem. Having said that, the ministry then gave them \$1 per day on the basis if they didn't like it they could lump it. And what of the men and women, many of them helpless and a large number alone? Yes, it is corny to talk of old people, cast off by society and in many cases waiting only to die. But in the name of a merciful God, that is what is happening in this province today.

The elderly I know do not frequent your clubs and your posh dining rooms. These sick people are often not amusing and they may not feel specially interested in whatever book



or movie or fad you people consider worthy of your attention on any given afternoon. But they did have hopes and dreams. The ones you treat the worst are the ones who are least able to give substance to those hopes and dreams. Punished by life or simply overlooked by it, under your disdainful treatment of them they die without any sense of justice or respect. Only one thing can be said for your treatment of the elderly. You certainly make the alternative to life seem more attractive than most of us who are alive want it to be.

You may have read in the evening paper, Mr. Speaker, the story of a woman who was in a nursing home and had to go into hospital. Her bed in her nursing home was lost. One understands that a nursing home can't hold beds forever and one doesn't know how long such a person may be ill. But there ought to be a provision of care for that woman now that she is able to leave the hospital.

If only by your own Tory thinking that only money is important, it would save dollars to get her out of the hospital and into a nursing home. But there isn't that kind of provision, and so many of us are hunting around for a nursing home that can take her.

But even more than that, that woman in that hospital was worried because she didn't know what happened to her possessions and there was nobody to tell her. They may not have seemed important possessions to people in the government side, but they were all she had.

But who cares about her concerns? If those older people had anything in this life to which they cling, it is their homes. Corporation lawyers, heirs to nice fortunes, may have forgotten, but the old have not forgotten what home ownership means and meant to the people of Ontario. To have a place of one's own has meant independence, security and a sense of one's goals made manifest. A government which blatantly used tax money to buy homes for the young, some of those homes being very costly homes, is back at its old pre-election stance threatening homeowners, especially the most vulnerable of them, the elderly.

Let's face it, we do not have a restraint programme. We have a programme whereby this government hopes to bring forward a budget that is not too ghastly at the expense of the municipalities. So you have shown your complete lack of concern for these people who own their homes and who have little else.

On top of this we must never forget that the government still hasn't announced its decision as to what it proposes to do about market value assessment and the protection of the residential homeowner. I must at this point, Mr. Speaker, pay tribute to the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen). He does answer my letters and does seek to keep me up to date on the ongoing discussions relevant to this problem of the factor. We hope that this will be announced before the full force of this year's thrust to the municipalities, and next year's very possible switch of the onus from commercial/industrial to the residential homeowner, takes place.

We come now, Mr. Speaker, to the question of women and children in this community. You know if this province were a lifeboat, it is not too much to say that the government's motto would be women and children first, and would dump them into the sea.

Take, for example, the deserted wife living in Ontario Housing with her children. All of this is under the name of removing discrimination. We have got to keep that in mind because it is one of the most perverse things this government ever has done. If they are in Ontario Housing and the husband deserts, they want to be perfectly fair with the husband and wife. He must pay half of the arrears and so must she. What you forget in this table is that she has the children with her and so you punish the children, I suppose in an old religious tradition, for the sins of the parents.

We have seen the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) and I do wish, Mr. Speaker, we would go back to calling it the Ministry of Welfare because that's what it is—the old fashioned welfare, and not community and social services which has perhaps a certain dignity in its implications.

So the minister says that we are going to have civil servants telling these women that they have to go to work. Of course we are not going to tell all of them, but we are not quite sure who we are going to tell. I guess it is going to be a secret to us.

The interesting thing is that when I asked the minister what he proposed to do about the deserting fathers, he said we are going to teach them a thing or two. He doesn't even know that the deserting fathers basically have nothing to do with his ministry, and he obviously doesn't know what happens in the courts and their inability to do anything to enforce their orders adequately. But that's all right, we're going to make those women go to work because we don't want any discrimination. That's the name of the game.



There are places in this city—one is Interval House, the other is Women in Transition—and these two operations are showing some concern for that traumatic experience of a woman who has been deserted, often at a very late hour at night, and they take her and her children in to help her over this particular traumatic experience.

And there is the Y programme which is called Focus on Change. This is a programme to help mothers on welfare, to get some help to enable them to get out of the welfare scene, to give them skills. All of these programmes are waiting to find out whether in fact they're going to get any money, all in the name of no discrimination.

Many of these women in the past have sought retraining programmes but they have been advised, "Your place is in the home." So they have been discouraged. But now government policy has changed; now we mustn't show discrimination. Now we must make them get out and work like men.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Working on an Oscar?

**Mrs. Campbell:** Well, you know it's a funny thing, back in 1959 we had welfare problems in the city of Toronto.

**Mr. Nixon:** The minister was the solicitor for Scarborough that year, wasn't he?

**Mrs. Campbell:** Our commissioner of welfare was one Miss Morris. She is known to you, highly respected and I'd like to take the opportunity to congratulate you, as I believe she has had a three-year renewal of her contract. But we were discussing some of these problems and, of course, we were discussing it largely with the father of the family in the hope of trying to encourage him to get back into the labour force. This very wise lady said to me, "You know, the basic problem is that the penalties in welfare are too severe to be tolerated." I leave that with you and perhaps you might discuss her experience with her in detail.

Because, of course, even with the father, if they don't work what are you going to do? Starve the children? With this government it wouldn't be beyond belief but I don't see how you're going to really bring yourself to do that.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** You will say we will anyway.

[9:00]

**Mrs. Campbell:** I'm glad that the minister interjected because, you know, he says time and again how misquoted he has been and

yet, by all that is righteous, here he comes out in the paper saying exactly by regulation what he says he didn't say. So, if I say that, it is understandable.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** That's not right, you know. What I have been saying is manifested in the regulations. It's just a matter of which came first.

**Mrs. Campbell:** You weren't going to separate women from their children but you are going to separate children from their mothers. I guess that's the difference. The government thinks that—

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Have you read the regulations?

**Mrs. Campbell:** I have asked to see them and I have not seen them yet.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** If you haven't read the regulations, what are you talking about?

**Mrs. Campbell:** Well, do you know what you are talking about, because I don't think you do?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I sure do.

**Mrs. Campbell:** I have been listening and you have fudged every single solitary answer because you haven't known the answers. You don't have to stand up in this House and ask your colleague, the Minister of Labor (B. Stephenson), about this. You don't have to stand up and give long-winded answers unless you don't know the answer. That is the trouble with you.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I am just trying to explain.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think if the hon. member would address her remarks to the Chair it would be more appropriate.

**Mr. Roy:** She is being heckled by the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** It is just your own fabrication.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for St. George.

**Mr. Roy:** He is being provocative here.

**Mr. Warner:** The minister is being provocative.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Mr. Speaker, I am supposedly uninformed as to the regulations.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** What do you mean, supposedly?

Mrs. Campbell: But I didn't draft them.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You didn't draft them?

Mrs. Campbell: No.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Thank God.

Mr. Roy: No, they would have some heart in them if she drafted them. There is no heart in your regulations.

Mr. Nixon: No brains either.

Mr. Roy: Just cold hard law.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for St. George.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You wouldn't be able to interpret them.

Mr. Roy: I wouldn't want to interpret them either.

Mrs. Campbell: I would like to go back to the matter of deserted wives. From the experience I have had in this, Mr. Speaker, I don't think the minister will challenge my knowledge and information. In the matter of deserted wives, let me give you a few examples and then we talk about no discrimination. What of the women who have worked to give their husbands an education in law or in medicine? These women and their husbands have produced children but—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, you are an expert on that.

Mrs. Campbell: —once the husband has his education he chooses to leave.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Oh, it is unfair, you are bitter.

Mr. Warner: Only because you are here.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, there are plenty of these cases and so in the name of no discrimination we then say to these women, "You must get out of the home and work," because frankly there is no way really effectively of enforcing the judgement of the family court, save sending the husband to jail. What a great progressive province we have.

Hon. Mr. Taylor. Is that your answer, sending the husbands to jail?

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I thought my friend across the way was a lawyer. I am sorry, I must have been mistaken. He

has to know that the courts can only operate within the law that his government brought into being.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You have sat on the bench. Surely you should know something about enforcement of maintenance grants.

Mrs. Campbell: I do indeed and I know that in these cases the only real answer in the family courts is to send husbands to jail for contempt and there isn't a family court judge that isn't very angry about that kind of treatment because it doesn't help anybody.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: So you know nothing about collections?

Mr. Roy: Are you going to control him, Mr. Speaker, or not?

Mrs. Campbell: He doesn't even know what a show-cause court is, I'm afraid.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You know it?

Mr. Bain: He wasn't a very good lawyer either.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We have to improve further on collection too.

Mrs. Campbell: Oh I know you've got automatic enforcement. I'm just waiting to see how much automatic enforcement there is. In the case of women trying to get out of welfare, and I think it has to be said, since the minister has implied that there are all these very lazy welfare mothers who go back to bed when their children go to school, and that there are all these great jobs available to them if only they would get out of bed, get dressed and get out and get them.

Interjections.

Mr. Wildman: Become hospital workers.

Mr. Warner: Where are the jobs?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That is your fabrication.

Mrs. Campbell: All right, Mr. Speaker. Do you think for a moment that you could restrain the minister?

Mr. B. Newman: It is you we are worried about.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It was.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, what of those women who do take the very gallant step of determining to get off welfare? As you



may have recalled, it was the philosophy of the Liberal Party that there should be incentives to assist these women. As I recall, a motion was made by our member from North Bay to that effect, only we thought there should be an allowance of \$100 a month for six months to give some stability to this effort.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** That was the philosophy. What is your philosophy now?

**Mrs. Campbell:** The minister knows that instead, we have \$100 a month plus \$50 for each of the next two months. Let me give you a case history of what happens.

A mother, living in Ontario Housing with five children, decided she would take this step. She did get a job having, of course, duly informed the ministry.

In taking the job, Mr. Speaker, she dropped \$100 a month in revenue. I don't know how many over there would do it, while they criticize her, but that's what happened.

And, of course, she had to pay her own OHIP. She had to pay dental care, and Ontario Housing reduced her rent by \$10 a month. So, it left a shortfall.

Do you know what happened? Somebody informed the ministry that she was working and cheating on welfare. So what happens in this maze of bureaucracy? They pull her file, put it under 02 or something and won't pay her this money because she has to be investigated, although they must have known she had declared she was about to work.

Well anyway, one only has to know the way in which the government treats women around the more menial occupations of this place to understand that this government is saying to these women, "You have no skills." In some cases they do not, and maybe they should come and work by contract to clean this place the way the Portuguese women have been cleaning, only to know that there is discrimination against women in this area.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** You don't believe that?

**Mrs. Campbell:** There isn't any question; there is no ability for them to even apply for any job other than the most menial, notwithstanding the fact of seniority in some cases.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** My deputy minister is a woman and a very capable one.

**Mrs. Campbell:** If we have a government that lets contracts to people who discriminate and does nothing about it when it is drawn to its attention; if the government enters into

contracts and doesn't demand at least the minimum of what the law requires in terms of employment standards, then how can we expect better of the government in dealing with women on welfare or in any other case?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** You don't believe that?

**Mr. Moffatt:** It's called exploitation.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Then we come to the matter of day care. Surely, if the mother is to go out to work, her child is to be cared for. But the government acts as if day care is something it gives to mothers who are, in its lexicon, usually undeserving. I have news for the government: Day care is what this society does for children, and not for bankers, accountants or real estate speculators. Can the minister understand that? Day care is for children.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Not necessarily—

**Mr. Warner:** No, he doesn't understand.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** There is day care for adults. They have all kinds of day care. You should know that too.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Perhaps the minister could repeat that to himself every morning. It is a very simple statement. Let him try it; he may like it!

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** There are different kinds of day care; you know that. You should know that.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Day care is for children; it gives children a secure, organized learning experience, with the supervision of trained men and women.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Some day care does!

**Mrs. Campbell:** It is not a bingo palace for welfare mothers, whose sins seem to haunt the minister, although their needs do not. The most serious game of chance is hopscotch. The only people who sleep are two-, three- and four-year-olds at their naps. Milk is guzzled—not gin.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Who wrote that stuff for you?

**Mrs. Campbell:** John Dewey, the great educator, said that society should want for all of its children what the wise parent wants for his own child. Presumably, this does not mean using children as gimmicks or cutting back on programmes that most affect their lives.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** What do you know about that kind of thing?

**Mr. Warner:** The minister doesn't care.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Let us go on to consider such matters as the Children's Aid Societies' budget. We have only to look at the newspaper today—I suppose the minister has read it, but when we hear that minister say, "No child in need shall suffer," this should be on the record—and read that the lack of services in Toronto for children who have more than one handicap is pushing the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto increasingly into an area of children's care for which it wasn't originally intended. The newspaper article goes on to discuss the problems. They are caught between two provincial ministries, Health and Community and Social Services, neither has anything for them and parents often turn to the Children's Aid Society because they have no other recourse.

[9:15]

**Mr. Warner:** The minister doesn't care.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** What do you know about that kind of thing?

**Mrs. Campbell:** And this no child in need will want.

**Mr. Warner:** Do you really like children?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Do you have any children?

**Mr. Warner:** Yes.

**Mrs. Campbell:** The answers—I wonder, Mr. Speaker—

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** You do? I wouldn't have expected it from you with your attitude. You surprise me.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for St. George is talking to the Speaker.

**Mr. Nixon:** Are you speaking next, Jim?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** No, I'm speaking now.

**Mr. Roy:** That's obvious.

**Mr. Haggerty:** That's about the regular level of contribution by you.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I'm waiting to hear the member for St. George.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** And the individual programme, that is necessary—

**Mrs. Campbell:** I would hate to ask you to name the minister, Mr. Speaker, but that may be the only way we can get a little order.

**An hon. member:** Throw him out.

**Mr. Roy:** You should get up and apologize that you're such a right winger.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Name him, Mr. Speaker.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Mr. Speaker, the semantics of this ministry will not solve the problems. We have asked for programmes to help in the matter of child abuse. Surely that is not something which can be swept aside under a restraint programme? But yes, indeed it can.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** It's not true. It won't be and you know it.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not clairvoyant—

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** That's true. That's the most accurate thing you have said tonight.

**Mrs. Campbell:** —I can only go on what facts there are. Mr. Speaker, I have such pity for this minister. He is so inadequate for his job.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Don't pity me.

**Mr. Cassidy:** You should resign.

**Mr. B. Newman:** You should resign.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Why don't you resign now, then Margaret can finish her speech?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Don't you wish I would?

**Mr. Roy:** You're lucky; the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) makes you look good.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** It goes to show the talent we have on this side.

**Mr. Bain:** It sure does show the talent.

**An hon. member:** Shows the level of talent.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** You are envious.

**Mrs. Campbell:** I referred to this before but, surely, when we know of the numbers of children — young children — who are either attempting suicide or are committing suicide, there should be an honouring of what was an undertaking—although I don't think in fairness I could say it went so far as being a commitment—of the former minister. If a society can't be concerned for the welfare of its children it is unworthy of the name of a society at all. There isn't anyone in this province who would oppose services to children; no one.



**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** That's right and this government manifests that.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Except for the minister.

**Mr. Good:** Except one.

**Mr. Roy:** When things are tough, you've got to have compassion and you don't have it.

**Mrs. Campbell:** I am not going to refer in detail at all to the horrible insensitivity—

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Watch the extravagance now.

**Mrs. Campbell:** —of the programme for the mentally retarded, although everyone knows how insensitive it is.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** You don't believe that.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Mr. Speaker—

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** If you did your homework—

**Mrs. Campbell:** Mr. Speaker, I have never spoken without belief in what I say.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That's right.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Then I overestimated your intelligence and your knowledge.

**Mr. Good:** You didn't even show up the other morning for the breakfast.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I can't be everywhere.

**Mrs. Campbell:** It is interesting—

**Mr. Good:** You made sure you didn't go there.

**Mr. Roy:** If you keep up the way we are going, we are going to find out sooner than ever.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for St. George, I am awaiting her words.

**Mrs. Campbell:** I am just wondering, Mr. Speaker, if we couldn't let me move into the middle here so I could be a party to the cross-fire.

**Mr. Speaker:** I assure you the Speaker is listening to you very intently.

**Mrs. Campbell:** He is interrupting, I know that.

**Mr. Roy:** He is being provocative too.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Part and parcel, of course, of this government's consideration for children is its proposed cutback—not cutback, all right;

an increase which doesn't begin to match the increasing cost, in my view, is a cutback.

We get a ministry which decides that for family services we will not increase by more than 5.5 per cent, and that means that very possibly a function such as Illahee Lodge, a place for disabled children to enjoy summer activities, may have to be closed.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** But not likely.

**Mr. Reid:** Do you guarantee to help them out?

**Mrs. Campbell:** We do not have anything from the ministry to give us any assurance, other than idle chatter.

**Mr. Roy:** She's right, you should resign.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Then, of course, we turn to the closing of the child unit of the Lakeshore Hospital—again, part and parcel of the fact that we have a government which has been in office so long and has never yet been able to develop a bill of rights for children.

**Mr. Warner:** Right on. It is called hereditary ineptitude.

**Mrs. Campbell:** So these children will be chucked around like laundry. They, after all, are not voters; nor are they, I assume, heavy contributors to the campaign.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Not only are you bitter, but you are cynical.

**Mrs. Campbell:** They are not owners of advertising agencies who can smooth over the callousness and sheer stupidity of the government opposite. Let's add it all up so far. The welfare mother unable to feed herself and her family decently finds that there are disincentives to working provided by the very government that is now proposing that she go to work.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That's right.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I don't know how you sleep at night.

**Mrs. Campbell:** One of the other things that happens in this kind of a case—and I have seen this happen through the years—is that when there are family debts and judgements flowing from them the creditors, like government, don't bother to try to find the husband—it costs too much money for that exercise—they lie in wait for the time when the mother gets into the work force and then enforce their judgements against her. Don't tell me if he's a lawyer, knowing

something about collections, he doesn't know that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You have a persecution complex.

Mr. Wildman: You have contributed to it.

Mr. Cassidy: You are a disgrace, you know. I wish the assistance recipients could see you laughing and chortling over their misfortune. You are an absolute disgrace to this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, order please. The hon. member for St. George has the floor.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I just have a few more points. We have problems in housing. We've been talking about them for a long time. I'm not trying to dwell on any but one aspect, but here again is a case history about a woman living outside of Metropolitan Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: How you can regurgitate nonsense like that, I don't know. You are expert at it.

Mrs. Campbell: The minister is going to get his turn, but I'm going to have my say. It may be the last time I get in at all, around here.

This woman, with three children, is living in a small home outside of Metro and is separated from her husband who owes her \$5,000 in support payments. She was working to support her family. After four and a half months she became ill and was discharged by the plant.

Her welfare allowance was \$370 a month. Her rent was \$197.50, her food \$160, her telephone \$12. Her expenses were \$369.50 for rent, food and telephone, and I'm sure, she had to clothe three children.

This is a case where rent supplement is the only answer because there is no Ontario Housing where she lives. But the municipality, and I regret the fact this has been a decision of theirs, but I can understand it, they have a one year residency requirement, the municipality says there is no rent supplement for her.

This is a government that cares, a government that cares for children?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's right, I hope you are serious about that.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I never was more serious in my life.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Good.

Mrs. Campbell: I have one further case. I have tried to get some action from this government for a long period of time. I tried to be polite about it. Tonight I'm not going to be.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's a novelty.

Mrs. Campbell: I have begged to have something done for those children who are victims of contributing to juvenile delinquency. Mr. Speaker, there is no way to move this government.

I did try to go through the official guardian; and I think that's an awful misnomer. The official guardian is simply, and solely, an administrative official who really has nothing to do with the welfare of children.

I tried, Mr. Speaker, to get the press involved at one time. Since I did all of the proceedings for awhile in the family courts, I asked one of the two columnists who came to see me at the court to come in. I put it to two of them.

One of them accepted. That man was Ken Bagnell, a columnist whom I trusted implicitly as to his discretion and concern. He came in and he wrote a lead article on the subject of the child in a contributing action and he came back the following week.

[9:30]

Fortunately in these cases, Mr. Speaker, if you have a good Crown attorney, and in Mr. Hoffman we had the very best in that court, a child is not before a court. The evidence is produced from other sources, and of course this is something to be desired. But unfortunately what happens is that the child is then a forgotten factor and becomes invisible in the total picture.

In any event, when Mr. Bagnell returned the next time, we had to take what was a particularly difficult case. It was a case, quite frankly, of one copulation; not pretty at all. But Mr. Bagnell wrote the story and, unfortunately, the paper would not permit it to be published on the basis that it was an obscenity and so the whole matter was lost. But none of those children get to the criminal compensation board. None of those children get any help with the problems which are created by the kinds of activities to which they're subjected. So I asked I don't know how many Attorneys General—three I guess it says here—

Mr. Nixon: They had three in one year.

Mrs. Campbell: —if they would do something to assist these children. I particularly



asked that we have the official guardian give him staff to watch these cases. The Children's Aid Society with this ministry, obviously, have no officers to work in their courts except on the specific cases for which they have special responsibility—child welfare, and in some cases, juvenile delinquency.

One of the law officers of the present Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) advised me that they were going to advise the Crown attorneys across the province to ensure that these children would, at least, be brought before that board where there could be developed a procedure for them which could be helpful for their futures. I didn't like that approach. I don't think a Crown attorney who is prosecuting in the one case should then become more or less an informer about the child, but that is what they offered.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** How about a friend of the court?

**Mrs. Campbell:** I wouldn't think you could be a friend of the court in the circumstances of having been the prosecutor in the case involving the parents or the adults. The other problem is that if he only informs the parent and if the parent is the one who is at fault it doesn't get anywhere.

However, it ended up that I said I would accept that as a first step if they would start it, and then I asked some of the Crowns and they had no such instruction.

Mr. Speaker, I would honestly believe that an Attorney General who is concerned about violence in hockey might be equally concerned about the violation of children in these circumstances.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** You can rest assured he is.

**Mrs. Campbell:** It is proper to come to grips with this kind of a situation. I hope that he will do something.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, may I just say that almost a year ago, on April 28, the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett), speaking to the Lions' Club of Credit Valley in Port Credit, outlined the philosophy of this government. I feel very guilty because I never did take him very seriously. Suddenly I realized that in fact he was philosophizing for government and he talked about a return to values and said that we must deal with the old values. Then he goes on to say that many of us haven't the right values and he said: "Don't think for a minute that I am excluding governments. They are just as guilty of waste and greed as unions, corporations and the little old lady down the

street," and the only one who is being re-strained is the little old lady down the street.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** I would like to express today my full support for the Speech from the Throne. In particular, I want to address my comments to the government's commitment. I found it interesting in reviewing the Speech from the Throne and the commitment is set forth in a number of spots. Let me quote:

Profit restrictions and wage limitations imposed on the public should be reflected in similar limitations on government spending at all levels. [In another spot:] For its part, Ontario will continue to curtail its costs and to reorder its priorities in the provincial and in the national interests.

This is a major initiative and I believe it is unparalleled in any other jurisdiction to say something in support of national policy actions to combat inflation. In this fight, public attention has focused on actions taken by the government to curtail the growth of major spending programmes.

I think we are all aware of four of those examples that come immediately to mind: The Ministry of Health, for example, with its hospital closings, its cutbacks in beds and its budget restraints; the Ministry of Education with its local boards' requirements to absorb increases; the Ministry of Transportation and Communications with its restrictions in local building programmes, the postponements—in some cases, the cancellation—of some programmes; and the general eight per cent ceiling on the growth of government grants on municipalities.

But, Mr. Speaker, to date it has not been at all well recognized that the government's constraint programme affects all ministries along the lines of the quotations I have just taken from the Throne Speech itself. It affects all ministries—

**Mr. Bain:** Are you going to cut back in the Ministry of Revenue in what you collect from the taxpayers?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** —and it is designed to cut administrative costs, improve internal productivity and absorb greater work loads with decreased resources in some cases.

**Mr. Shore:** Only got 69,000 people there.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** In the thrust of constraint and reordered priorities, I believe the experience of my Ministry of Revenue offers a particularly interesting case study.

We have been traditionally one of the less visible ministries, while nevertheless perform-



ing an essential function without which no government programmes could exist at all. For example, we have the revenue through taxes for our own purposes and in my ministry the other, rather more visible, side, the assessment of all real property in Ontario for the purpose of municipal taxation. It is therefore important that the application of these restraints does not impede the flow of revenues to the Treasury, particularly at this time when we are all bending every effort to reducing the deficit. And, of course, it is also essential to ensure that the—

**Mr. Bain:** Why don't you restrain yourselves in collecting taxes?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** —taxing statutes continue to be administered fairly and equitably and properly in the interests of all taxpayers.

Now, I want to tell you that constraints have been met in the Ministry of Revenue. Like all ministries we have taken cuts in two different quarters, the first of those in complement. We reduced our complement by 153 positions during the last fiscal year, 1975-1976, and we will be held constant at that reduced figure for the current year 1976-1977. The resultant saving in the 1975-1976 year is somewhat in excess of \$1 million. In extrapolating that saving into the current fiscal year, 1976-1977—it is hard to estimate it accurately at this time, but it looks as if it could be in the order of \$1.5 million to \$2 million for a full fiscal year with that constant reduced figure.

**Mr. Good:** I hope so.

**Mr. Shore:** What service is going to be affected by it?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** If we reduce 153 positions in an even fashion over the whole year then you would say the average reduction was 77½. Then you would simply multiply that by two and say we would save \$2 million in a full year. But we can't expect that because it may well have been that in the earlier part of the year positions carrying lesser salaries were terminated and the saving of \$1 million reflects the total effect. So as a rough estimate, and perhaps a relatively conservative estimate, it would look as if we were able to save \$1.5 million. That is on the complement side.

On the direct operating expenses, or DOE as we are inclined to call it, the cutback in 1975-1976 was \$1.8 million, which works out to a pretty healthy limitation. We will have no growth in DOE, as we estimate it now,

for the current year 1976-1977, and our DOE will be in the order of \$12 million.

The implications of this are, I guess, pretty obvious. We are just going to have to absorb inflation in my ministry like the others. And we are going to have to absorb workload increases that occurred in 1975 and we are going to have to absorb them again in 1976.

But I think we should put Revenue constraint in perspective. These cuts don't seem particularly large, I suppose, against the total government cutbacks in some of the more visible ministries, but restraint in the Ministry of Revenue is indeed significant. I shall demonstrate in a moment why the application of constraint in full measure was so difficult and indeed, Mr. Speaker, a real challenge to achieve.

The Ministry of Revenue has traditionally been what I choose to call a lean ministry. The complement has been essentially stable over the last few years. For example, across the ministry on April 1, 1972, we had 4,074 positions. In April, 1975, three years later, that had increased by all of 41 positions to 4,115—a one per cent increase in three years. The increase in total government positions in the same period was three per cent.

Direct operating expenses have always been kept in line. In 1970-1971 the DOE assessment was all of \$6.296 million. In 1975-1976, the fiscal year just ended, the total was \$6.633 million, an increase of just \$437,000. That's a five per cent total increase over five years, to answer the member for Waterloo North.

**Mr. Shore:** How will you survive?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** A five per cent increase in DOE in five years—even with inflation built into it and even, for that matter, with the tremendous increase in workload and heightened activity over this same period.

[9:45]

**Mr. Roy:** As taxes keep going up you need more people.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Throughout the ministry we have combined our traditional practice of restraint with greater workloads to bring about continued increases in productivity and continued increases in efficiency in all the programmes. Let me give you some of the indicators we have established to gauge our divisional performance.

Look for example at the revenue division. Revenue collected in the 1972-1973 fiscal year, Mr. Speaker, was \$2.14 billion. That revenue in 1975-1976, collected by the revenue section of the ministry, rose to \$3.3



billion, an increase of 54 per cent. The cost per \$100 of revenue collected in the 1972-1973 fiscal year was 71 cents. In 1975-1976, the year just ended, our estimated cost is 62 cents for every \$100 collected, a reduction in the cost of 13 per cent.

The number of accounts per employee is another interesting yardstick to look at. In 1972-1973, there were 349 accounts for each employee in the ministry in the revenue section. That number has increased from 349 to 463 accounts per employee, an increase of 33 per cent.

**Mr. Shore:** Don't know how you do it.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** If you want to take a look at the assessment division, I will get to the question of the hon. member for London North. He wants to know how we did it.

**Mr. Good:** Explain how your total expenditures went up 300 per cent in three years.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** For the number of properties under the assessment division, if you want to take a look at that, in 1970-1971, when we took over assessment from the municipalities, there were 1.6 million properties. By 1975-1976, with the activities in subdivisions and the like, that number has increased to 2.8 million properties, an increase of 75 per cent. The number of properties per assessor has increased from 663 in 1970-1971 to 1,149, an increase of 73 per cent.

**Mr. Shore:** Slave labour.

**Mr. Good:** You don't reassess them every year—

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** In the Province of Ontario Savings Office the public moneys on deposit in 1971-1972 were \$138 million; in the fiscal year just ended, the moneys on deposit have increased to \$240 million, an increase of 74 per cent.

Deposits per dollar of cost, a unit used in determining the efficiency of operation, have increased from the 1971-1972 fiscal year from \$78.95 to, in the current year, 1975-1976, \$91.53—

**Mr. Shore:** You could have had five less if you didn't have these statistics.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** —an increase of 16 per cent.

**Mr. Roy:** And the sales tax increased 40 per cent.

**Mr. Good:** Reduce the sales tax, and you would have—

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** In time/motion studies and efficiency studies there is a term called work unit. Work units per hour per person in the Province of Ontario Savings Office in 1971-1972 were 13.1; they increased to 16.9 in the last fiscal year, an increase of 29 per cent.

**Mr. Roy:** We are convinced here—

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** In addition to this increasing efficiency in operation, we have accepted—

Interjection.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It is my understanding the member for Ottawa East will be participating in this debate later on.

**Mr. Roy:** I thought I should warm up, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** He is trying to do so now, Mr. Speaker, but I am sure he will have his opportunity in due course.

In addition to all of this, we have accepted new responsibilities without additional resources—the introduction of the land speculation tax and the land transfer tax, non-resident aspects.

**Mr. Shore:** Your job is secure.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** There are important instruments in the government's socio-economic policies of controlling foreign ownership in Ontario, and they were taken on and administered by my staff without any increase in personnel.

We assumed a major role in the area of income redistribution, involving close co-operation with Ottawa on the Ontario tax credit programme and, of course, direct administration of the Ontario GAINS programme; which at the end of the last fiscal year, for the month of March, 1976, was benefiting some 282,000 elderly citizens in Ontario.

We've also been responsible for administering a series of fiscal policy actions, the temporary retail sales tax car rebate programmes, the temporary home buyer grant programmes and the various investment credits and incentives for production machinery that have been built into the various budgets, particularly into last year's and the year before that.

We managed to take on these additional responsibilities, almost entirely without staff increases. We can't do that by some form of legerdemain. It's imperative that we have some tools at hand, of course, and there were

a couple of devices that we used for this purpose. One was that we were able to employ some temporary staff, where necessary, to avoid permanent cost increases.

**Mr. Good:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the member for Waterloo North have a point of order?

**Mr. Good:** Yes, on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the minister would not want to knowingly mislead the House, so perhaps he would explain to us how the 1975 budget shows the Minister of Revenue's estimates have increased by over 300 per cent from 1973 to 1975-1976; that is, from \$54 million to \$168 million?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would care to look he will notice that that contains the GAINS programme and, obviously—

**Mr. Good:** All right. You are telling us you are doing the same thing with the same amount of money.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** —those are transfer payments, Mr. Speaker. We are not talking about that one. I'm talking about the efficiency of operations of the ministry, and the hon. member knows it full well.

**Mr. Reid:** That's how you are going to rationalize it?

**Mr. Good:** You don't want to talk about the increase.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Maybe he would like to sit back and listen to some of the efficiencies that we have been able to accomplish in the Ministry of Revenue.

**Mr. Roy:** And here I thought you were a success story. I thought you were a success.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** If you want to talk about transfer payments, that's something else again, obviously.

**Mr. Roy:** I'm disappointed in you, Art.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Oh, I am sure.

The first method, Mr. Speaker, I've mentioned. The second was that we redeployed permanent staff from other areas to provide experienced supervision and control when we took on some of these temporary programmes. That kind of flexibility and ability to meet our new demands was particularly demonstrated in actions like that. And of course the one we remember rather well from last fall,

the mail strike, where we had centres for GAINS cheque pickups established all over Ontario; the St. Lawrence Hall here in Toronto; the regional assessment offices in the 31 branches around Ontario.

**Mr. Reid:** That's what they've been doing.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** The district retail sales tax offices. As a result of that activity, and the co-operation that we got from many of the municipal clerks around the province to whom we were also able to deliver cheques, over 85 per cent of the GAINS cheques were picked up during the mail strike. I think that speaks rather well for the way in which people were able to co-operate with us on this and, indeed, the way in which we were able to provide that service.

**Mrs. Campbell:** I thought Lorne Henderson delivered the cheques personally.

**Mr. Roy:** That was good, Art.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** During that same period we maintained tax collection, and it's essential for the ongoing programmes of the province that the tax collection methods work and that the money continues to flow in. During that same period some 84 per cent of our normal revenues were recovered on time.

To recap for a moment, in the period before the constraint—and this is what I've been talking about up to now—we've grown in a pretty lean manner. We've assumed the increased workloads I've talked about. We've achieved, across the ministry, high standards indeed of performance. Further, I want to cite two significant items in support of my contention that we're already a lean ministry and an efficient one.

The first of those is that the government, in its ongoing search for further cuts through the special programme review that was set up, understood just what we would confront if we were to have further cuts and relieved us from the obligation of any further cuts for the current year, 1976-1977. They understood, and fully appreciated that to do so would be to jeopardize our revenue collection and would hamper the equity and effectiveness of our efforts from the standpoint of the taxpayer; and neither of those is, of course, attractive to anybody.

The second item is that in comparison with other tax administrations, I think we come off very favourably indeed. A study was done by the University of Illinois a couple of years ago. It studied all the taxing jurisdictions in the United States and, I understand,



all the taxing jurisdictions in Canada, at the federal level and our sister provinces. That study ranked Ontario with California as the most effective and equitable taxing jurisdictions in North America.

They had a very sophisticated way to work all this out on a scoring system. I am told that California came in at 83 points; Ontario came in at 82 points; and the next one down the list was somewhere in the 60s. We did our own little study just looking at some of the taxing jurisdictions around Canada.

**Mr. Roy:** Did it give any marks for the minister?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** I can tell members that we ranked at the top of the list for efficiency. Without getting into comparisons with some of the other provinces—and I might tell you, Mr. Speaker, that comparisons, as in that old expression, are odious—

**Mr. Roy:** Did they rate the ministers?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Total revenues collected in the 1974-1975 fiscal year, Ontario collected \$3.268 billion, with each employee handling \$2.85 million of that—

**Mr. Roy:** In millions?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Yes, in millions. That is the highest figure of any. There are others of our sisters ranking at \$1.28 million, \$1.09 million, \$1.52 million and so on.

It is pretty clear that we have a pretty efficient and, I think, a pretty effective taxing operation. Members might ask how did we achieve this?

**Mr. Roy:** When the sales tax was reduced, did you reduce your staff.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** We have achieved this in two ways—

**Mr. Warner:** Does that include the temporary sales staff?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** —new technology and a very flexible approach to the managing of talent.

With respect to new technology, wherever possible we have gone to computerized records—corporations tax, for example. Under corporations tax, the computerization brings us now from a formerly completely manual operation to a computerized system with a net accumulated savings to date of some \$8 million.

In the assessment division, since we took over the function in 1970, we converted

some 800-odd—and members can interpret odd anyway they like—some 800 manual and automatic record systems to one standardized and fully automated system. This system also processes and issues about eight million enumeration notices each year. We have introduced a computerized valuation system to process quickly the masses of revisions which must be incorporated each year into the assessment rolls.

As to the flexible management approach, the ministry makes utmost use of existing staff and resources without duplication of functions. The homebuyers' grant is an illustration, Mr. Speaker. Instead of setting up separate audit functions for the homebuyers' grant, we turned that audit function over to the retail sales tax auditors and their district offices. This enables them to apply existing professional expertise to the new area and eliminated unnecessary duplication for Ontario homebuyer grant applications.

Another illustration is gas tax. Occasionally, the gas tax branch borrows audit staff from other branches to supplement seasonal work loads. For example, the recent survey of usage of all fuels in eastern Ontario. In that case we supplemented the branch's staff by taking auditors on from regional sales tax offices to do the job rather than expanding the staff in the gas tax branch.

Assessment staff: As I mentioned, they process land speculation tax lien and clearing certificates and they do this in the registry offices. In many instances they would be there anyway taking off the other information when working on transfers of real estate. So we have been able to combine that operation as well. They perform valuations for succession duty as well so that there again there's a combination of expertise to keep the number of staff at a minimum. In short, we use a sort of task force approach to establish new programmes and implement policy objectives.

[10:00]

In our continued support of the constraint measures, we are determined to maintain this record of efficiency. It is going to require re-doubled effort toward flexible use of our resources but we are going to continue the utilization of the most up-to-date technology available to reinforce efficiency and to reinforce efficiency under constraint.

Let me return to the new technology for a moment, if I may. We're currently looking at the creation of an on-line, computerized, common-data-based information retrieval system, which would function throughout the whole of the revenue division. This would

expand the existing data base in corporation sales tax and gas tax—and, for that matter, succession duty—to other parts of the branch as well. It would include businesses as well as individuals; for example, the GAINS and the home buyer grants. It would be linked to the companies branch at the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

**Mr. Cassidy:** You have been seduced, you know. You've been seduced by your bureaucrats.

Interjections.

**Mr. Roy:** Carry on, Art. I enjoy that. Very interesting.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** The tax filer would be able, if we're able to put this into effect—and I think we can—

**Mr. Cassidy:** Does this turn them on in your riding?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** The tax filer should then be able, with one inquiry or notification, to change his address, to notify us of the creation or demise of a company and, for that matter, to be potentially able to pay all taxes with one cheque or to transfer an overpayment of one cheque to an underpayment of another.

**Mr. Cassidy:** You're making a big mistake. The art of taxation is to hit them often and to hit them strong.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** This retrieval system will allow the taxpayer to find current status of obligation to all taxes as quickly as we can currently check up on our savings account balances at our local banks.

**Mr. Cassidy:** When they see how much they have to pay, they will really vote you out.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** For the ministry, the common data base means economies in record keeping, less duplication of effort and considerable savings in staff and time. As well, I might add, it would permit more effective and easier compliance procedures and, for that matter, enforcement.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Does it also mean more speeches like this one?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** And we hope, frankly, to act on independent consultants' recommendations, which I got some short while ago, to establish an on-line posting and clearing system for the major branches in the Province

of Ontario Savings Office, a matter we talked about last year during my estimates.

New technology costs money. Since we're committed to constraint on the fiscal side and zero growth on the complement side, funds for these projects will have to come from existing programmes. That's not going to be easy, but I'm optimistic that we can accomplish this.

**Mr. Roy:** I am sure you can, Art.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Good for you.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** A final word, perhaps, on the flexible use of management talents in all of this. We shall continue consolidation and reorganization of staff resources—

**Mr. Cassidy:** How is this making Ontario a better place to live?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** I might point out that there are three different, distinct areas of activity or fronts on which we are moving. Literally, by a move to 77 Bloor St. W., by September of this year, the ministry head office, which is presently spread around in four different locations will be consolidated into one.

**Mr. Edighoffer:** Will you have a royal flush there?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** The resultant saving is obvious: support services and the elimination of wasted man-hours in travel between the various parts of the head office. As a result of a management study we've done, we are consolidating two former branches, the financial services and the administrative services branches, under one director. We hope to achieve greater efficiency and some staff reduction in that quarter, too.

Thirdly, as stated in the 1975 budget, we have placed a priority on a wide-ranging tax simplification system. We have established a task force of existing specialists from a number of branches to draw up a comprehensive tax simplification programme. These efforts are already evidenced by amendments to the Succession Duty Act, which I tabled here in the House two or three weeks ago, whereby we've raised exemption levels and granted more immediate access by family to an estate; and, very shortly, I expect to be releasing a comprehensive report on the topic of tax simplification itself.

**Mr. Roy:** I can't wait for that.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Like the common data base, simpler tax procedures will benefit the tax filer and the administrators at Revenue



as well. Overall, we're going to be explaining the legislation in comprehensive language, redoubling our efforts to simplify our regulations and our procedures, and outlining what the taxpayer's obligations may be. I hope to produce simpler forms, to be able to instruct the tax filer by regular bulletins and notices that are couched in precise, straightforward language that don't require a Philadelphia lawyer to interpret them.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** I hope to remove many existing areas of uncertainty such as—

**Mr. Roy:** I would like to have a translation of your speech.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** —the area of tangible personal property: We design our instructions for individual groups and not just lawyers and accountants, for specific trades, retail outlets or specific types of corporations or contractors. We will aim at them but we will also aim at the individuals so that everyone will be better able to understand just what we are trying to do and just what their obligations are. In that way I trust that there will be a pretty significant reduction in the present complexity of our taxing structure.

**Mr. Cassidy:** You know, if you send this speech around York East, you will come third.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Mr. Speaker, I hope I've established beyond doubt that we at the Ministry of Revenue have always been efficient although, frankly, I don't think we've ever been complacent.

**Mr. Reid:** You've got to be kidding.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** We've met our obligations under constraint—

**Mr. Reid:** You should get rid of that speechwriter.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** —and even more importantly, we're directing all our efforts to sustaining these constraints in the year ahead.

I personally want to be on record as one of the strongest proponents of the controls on the growth of government expenditure as set down in the Speech from the Throne.

**Mr. Roy:** All right, we're with you there.

**Mr. Ruston:** Good idea.

**Mr. Roy:** Great speech, Art.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Peterborough.

**Mr. Roy:** She is going to have a hard act to follow.

**Ms. Sandeman:** Yes. Impossible.

Like the previous speaker, I'd like to address my remarks on the Speech from the Throne to the opening paragraphs of that speech. I don't quite have the previous speaker's confidence in those opening paragraphs. I was delighted, however, to hear that the Ministry of Revenue is looking after our affairs with efficiency and simplicity and flexibility and all those other things. I had always naively assumed that it was the business of the Ministry of Revenue to look after our business with efficiency and that government shouldn't have to tell us it was doing that—we should be able to take it for granted.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** It would become noticeable if they were doing it.

**Ms. Sandeman:** It would, yes. The Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen) read some opening paragraphs from the Speech from the Throne. The next paragraph is the one that I would like to comment on. The paragraph which says that:

Such restraint will allow consolidation and security of essential services in Ontario. We now enjoy one of the finest and most complete social service systems in the world. To maintain and preserve what Ontarians have worked to achieve in this field, it is necessary to streamline government programmes regularly to prune out redundancies or wastes that might arise.

I would like to address my remarks, not to wastes and redundancies that have arisen but programmes which haven't arisen—necessary programmes which the government itself seems to believe are necessary and which have not yet materialized and which may well be yet another victim of this constraint programme.

The first area which I'd like to discuss is the whole problem—and it shouldn't indeed be a problem, we should have had a solution by now—the problem arising from the excellent decision which this Legislature made last May to remove section 8 from the Training Schools Act—and I'm glad the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) is here this evening. When I read of that decision by the Legislature, working as I was at that time for that ministry, like all other employees of the ministry I think I can honestly say that we were all delighted that the Legislature had taken that action. But it's been a sorry story.

We've now nearly reached a year since that decision was made and we do not yet have in place programmes to replace train-



ing schools for the so-called unmanageable children who come before juvenile courts.

The timetable of procedures and lack of procedures around section 8 of the Training Schools Act has been very interesting. In May, we saw the amendment to the Act. By the fall, Children's Aid Societies and municipalities across the province were appealing to the ministries involved to give them some clarification as to where the funding was to come from for the children who were going to come into their care as a result of the deletion of section 8.

Children's Aid Societies, for instance, were pointing out that in order to provide for children who are now in the training school system and those who would come to the Children's Aid in the future as an alternative to training school, Children's Aid Societies would have to develop such services as short-term lockup facilities for youngsters. Those are not presently covered under the Child Welfare Act and there are some children who need to be locked up for their own protection or for the protection of others for a short term, but not in a training school. Local Children's Aid Societies would also need to have assessment facilities, where youngsters can stay for a couple of weeks while the staff get to know them and assess how best they can be helped.

Many local Children's Aid Societies in smaller centres don't have group homes with trained staff to care for youngsters who need special care. There is a great need too for specially trained foster parents for these teenage children, special foster homes and a training programme for foster parents who would be dealing with difficult teenage children. There's generally a crying need for foster homes for teenage youngsters across the province and a need for an increased staff in Children's Aid Societies to deal with these extra children on the case load, and their parents, at the time that they are under their care, maybe in a residential setting and when they are able to return home.

The municipalities, and my own municipality of Peterborough was one of them, were involved in a series of meetings with the various ministries and expressed their concern about where funding was to come from for these children.

Last fall, Mr. Turner, the executive director of the Department of Social and Family Services in Peterborough, wrote to the liaison committee of the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association expressing the concern felt by our municipality and, I'm sure, by

many others across the province. He commented:

A meeting was held in late September in Oshawa, involving representatives of the inter-ministry committee established to develop plans for the implementation of section 8, representatives of local Children's Aid Societies and both elected and appointed officials from the city of Peterborough. Our impression was that most of the committee's work to date involved the transfer of responsibility from one ministry to another and very little interest or concern in what effect the change will have on municipal budgets.

I should point out that the city is not objecting to the proposed changes or their intent. We, in fact, support them. We do, however, request full and adequate consultation with municipal officials before the changes are implemented, and that consideration be given by the province to finding a financial arrangement to help offset expected increases in municipal funding to Children's Aid Societies resulting from these changes.

With a naive faith, I think, in the belief that the government, if they were transferring about 1,000 children from the Ministry of Correctional Services to the care of the Children's Aid Society, and to a shared care with the municipality, would also transfer the funding for those children, the municipalities and the Children's Aid Societies continue to ask the government: "Where is the funding coming from? What are you going to do to assure we can provide the alternate services needed?" Obviously the agencies and the municipalities are willing to care for these children. Reasonably, they ask for help and guidance.

It's too facile, I think, to say that a straight transfer of funds from Correctional Services to Community and Social Services is the answer, and I hope that we will not see, over the next few weeks when the committee finally presents its report, that that is what is suggested. I would suggest that if the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) allows a large chunk of his funds to leave his ministry to go to Community and Social Services, he is doing a great disservice to the community-based services for which his ministry is responsible. The community-based services of the Ministry of Correction Services are already drastically under-funded. Probation Officers have case loads which are so ridiculously high that—well, I'm just rendered speechless by the size of the case load which



I had as a probation officer when I left the service.

[10:15]

When I took my leave of absence to run for the last election I had 120 people on my case load as a probation officer in the adult service. When I hear the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen) speak of increasing efficiency and his tax men handling double the case load, I do hope that the Minister of Correctional Services doesn't believe that increased efficiency in community services in corrections is achieved by doubling case loads. Probation officers at the adult and juvenile levels are already not able to give the service they should to their clients and other backup services are desperately lacking in funds and staff.

As I say, in the fall the Children's Aid Societies in the municipalities were awaiting an answer of how they were to cope with this added burden. The answer came to them in December. It came loud and clear when the announcement was made of the level of transfer of funds to municipalities and to the social services for the fiscal year, 1976-1977. It became immediately obvious to those concerned with children now under section 8, that the new and necessary services could not be provided at that level of funding. The result of these financial decisions, the decisions that were announced in December, have been particularly disastrous for the Children's Aid Society.

I could give you some examples, perhaps, of what has happened to planning around the so-called section 8 children, again from the local Children's Aid Society in my riding, the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society. In January they were asking help again, desperately, from the minister, commenting that they were confronted with several serious difficulties which they needed help in resolving. Their comment was that the cost of children in institutions had gone up from the beginning of 1975 when they had one child in an institution at an annual cost of \$4,500; they now have five children in institutions at an annual cost of \$34,675.

These are children for whom we have no alternative way of providing care. The additional cost of providing care for these youngsters is about five per cent of our 1975 estimates. Our current total cost [they say] for children in institutions is \$95 a day. We need to know very quickly whether or not we will have the funds to continue to provide this care. Two of these youngsters whose care now costs \$60 per day might very well have gone to a training school under the provisions of the

Training Schools Act. They are now getting the care they need, but at a cost we cannot carry. We are proposing to care for them and four other youngsters in a group home provided for in these estimates.

The estimated budget that the Children's Aid Society provided for the Ministry of Community and Social Services represented an increase of 8.5 per cent over last year. That budget just allowed for them to care for children with special needs in a group home—and these are children who would otherwise have been in a training school.

The ministry refused to accept the 8.5 per cent budget and told the Children's Aid Society that they must cut back to a 5.5 per cent increase, with the result that the Children's Aid Society in Peterborough looked at their budget and decided that the difference between 5.5 per cent and 8.4 per cent must be made up by removing the funds allocated for a group home.

This means, in effect, that that society now has the capacity to provide care outside their own homes only for those children able to adjust to foster care and that they have no funds to purchase special care for children with special needs. They have no accommodation; they have no money for other children. They have passed this message on to the juvenile and family court judge who has responded by saying: "In that case, section 8 children will have to continue to be admitted to training schools."

It seems to me a very sad cycle to have come in less than a year; from last May, when we were bravely saying that no unmanageable child in Ontario should be sent to a training school, to the situation in April of this year, when there seems to be, for many family court judges, no alternative available because of the level of funding given to the local Children's Aid Society.

Duplication of this kind of disaster is happening across the province. In Renfrew we find, for instance, that when the local Viking Home billed the Children's Aid Society for a child in their care, the Children's Aid Society wrote back:

We are in receipt of your invoice of Jan. 31 for the month of January at \$49 a day. Because of the ministry's cutback to 5.5 per cent over 1975 estimates we are in desperate financial straits. The maximum amount that we could pay you at this time would be \$35 per day and we are enclosing a cheque for this amount. The only other alternative would be to remove Amy completely.



Should we get fairer consideration on our budget with respect to children in institutions, we could look at this rate later. Should you feel that you cannot continue with Amy for this per diem then you would have to reach your decision.

To which the National Children's Foundation, which now runs Viking Home, responded by sending a copy of that letter from the Children's Aid Society to the Minister of Community and Social Services and commented to the minister that:

There is no doubt that Amy needs to be in Viking; yet we are placed in this most invidious position by her agency due to government cutbacks. We cannot now at the beginning of March decide to pay our staff two-thirds of their salary for January. We are left with two choices: Either we sue the Children's Aid Society for this money; and/or we discharge this most needy child. This is a further glaring example that government cutbacks are hurting the old, the young and the poor.

We await urgently your response and assistance.

Though the juvenile court in Peterborough has decided that section 8 children will have to go to training school, other juvenile courts across the province have made exactly the opposite decision. Juvenile court judges are saying to Children's Aid Societies in their localities "If we place a child in your care, that is a decision of the court; if you refuse to follow we shall be forced to hold you in contempt of court".

This is a tough and admirable position on the part of the judge who, together with the courts and all the agencies concerned with that child's welfare, has decided what is best for the child. But it puts the Children's Aid Society in an intolerable financial position. They know if they accept the care of that child and have to place them in an expensive institutional setting or group home setting—sometimes with per diems of up to \$60 a day—they may have run through their annual budget by August or September of this year and the minister has made it very clear that there would be no supplementary payment. They are put in the intolerable situation of supporting desperately needy adolescents who are very vulnerable and very much at risk, or refusing to—and knowing that there is nowhere else for that child to go, and also run-

ning the risk of being held in contempt of court.

So in 10 months we have come full cycle from those brave words in May, 1975, to the situation where judges in juvenile courts, who have been delighted at the opportunity not to have to send deeply disturbed children to that most inappropriate resort, the Ontario training school, are now put in an untenable and intolerable position.

In fact, of course, many judges haven't been sending those unmanageable children to training schools since last May. Most juvenile court judges in the province have been acting as though the section deleting section 8 had already been proclaimed. The result across the province now is that the Children's Aid Society have the highest-ever percentage of teenagers in their care.

Over 50 per cent of the children in Children's Aid care at the moment across the province are over 13 years of age. It is relatively easy for a Children's Aid Society to find a foster home for a younger child. It becomes increasingly difficult to find a foster home or a good group home for a sexually acting-out teenage girl, an unmanageable boy and all the many children with behaviour patterns which many of us find intolerable in teenagers, with whom one copes only with special care and special skills.

On February 23 of this year the Ministry of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) assured me in a letter that it would be a matter merely of weeks before the Council for Emotionally Disturbed Children and Youth brought down their report about proclamation of the date of the amendment of the Training Schools Act. Several weeks have gone, and now I understand the report is being rewritten, and that a meeting is planned for the Association of Children's Aid Societies in April, which means a further delay in the provision of these very necessary services. We are back in the syndrome of everyone talking, everyone studying, and the children who need the care being the pawns in the game.

If I may say, in parentheses, the delay in handling the problem of section 8 children is mirrored in the delay in striking final budgets for Children's Aid Societies across the province. We are now into April; most of the Children's Aid Societies have not yet been able to come up with a final dollar figure for their budgets for this year. Their fiscal year starts in January and the discussions and the negotiations are still going on. Many of them are afraid that when they do get that final budget figure, what they have already spent will turn out to have been far too much.



If I may break my remarks there, Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue tomorrow on another topic.

Ms. Sandeman moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** Tomorrow we will continue with the Throne Speech debate.

Hon. Mr. Auld moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

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Friday, April 2, 1976

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Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe  
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1976

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

**Mr. Speaker:** Statements by the ministry.

## PICKERING NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I should like to report to the House that unit No. 4 at Ontario Hydro's Pickering nuclear generating station has been shut down due to a failure in the end windings of the generator.

**Mr. Nixon:** Is that the one you just got fixed?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Let me get my breath.

**Mr. Nixon:** You are only 28.

**Mr. Reid:** There is an epidemic going on.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I am pushing 30.

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I should stress that this failure is in the conventional or non-nuclear section of the unit.

This unit had been returned to service on March 25 after 10 months of shutdown to repair pressure tubes in the reactor and to repair the generator. Yesterday evening it was discovered that a small threading tool had been inadvertently left in the coil of the generator and this has resulted in a failure of the machine.

**Mr. Singer:** That's always good.

**Mr. Moffat:** A cigarette lighter.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** It must have been a surgical clamp.

**Mr. Nixon:** The minister must have visited there again.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Let's get on with the statement now.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** It is anticipated that the unit will be out of service for several months.

I might remind the House that, despite the problem Ontario Hydro has experienced with this unit, the Pickering station during 1975 held a production record of 62 per cent of

capacity for the entire year and met 16 per cent of the total demand for power for Ontario during the period 1973 to 1975. This means that, based on the current value of coal imported from the United States, the station has saved the province some \$500 million.

**Mr. Reid:** It is not working very well either.

## POINT OF ORDER

**Mr. Nixon:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, just before we begin oral questions, have you responded to the letter from the photo editor of the Toronto Star complaining of the unnecessary restrictions on still photographers now that we have opened up this chamber to the television cameras?

**Mr. Speaker:** We have had a meeting with the hon. gentleman and I think everything has been resolved or is in the process of being resolved, yes.

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, to the point of order, is the resolution going to remove some of those restrictions so that the still photographers can have access to the chambers?

**Mr. Speaker:** There was a misunderstanding on that, I might say.

**Mr. Nixon:** Thank you.

**Mr. Renwick:** What did you find out from that?

**Mr. Lewis:** A misunderstanding on whose part?

**Mr. Speaker:** On the part of the gentleman from the Toronto Star.

**Mr. Renwick:** Can they take pictures or not?

**Mr. Lewis:** It happens to the Star every time; they never get anything straight.

**Mr. Speaker:** Oral questions. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

## DENTAL CARE COVERAGE

**Mr. Lewis:** May I ask a question first, Mr. Speaker, of the acting Minister of Health: Can the minister endeavour to explain exactly

what is intended on the part of the ministry in the cutting of costs associated with dental care for those who are recipients of social allowances and for those whose dental care is paid for via OHIP in hospital? Without trying to make an argument for what was revealed here yesterday on the take of some oral surgeons, what does the ministry expect to save by cutting back dental care for those on social allowances?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, the question of the dental care programme for those on social allowances does not fall within the Ministry of Health, as a matter of fact.

However, we have been discussing with the Ontario Dental Association the problems inherent in the OHIP coverage of certain dental procedures and certain abuses which have been taking place under that programme. The ODA has agreed with us that certain modifications of the regulations must occur; and those regulations will be promulgated rather shortly as a matter of fact.

Really, what we are looking at is the problem of dental extraction of post-eruptive teeth in hospitals, which the programme was really never intended to cover in the first place but which it has, unfortunately, been covering because of certain practices.

**Mr. Lewis:** By way of supplementary: Does the ministry expect to achieve a significant saving and can the minister put a dollar amount to that, as she has put to so many other of the health programmes? What kind of saving are we talking of, for Ontario?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** About two-thirds of the total cost of providing dental services under OHIP.

**Mr. Lewis:** Which is?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I can't give the hon. member the exact figure right at the moment. I will get it for him.

**Mr. Nixon:** A supplementary: Is it the intention that the regulations will reduce the services which may be rendered by dentists or oral surgeons, or is it just an effort to control the amount of service?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, it's an attempt to control potential abuse of the programme. It's not an attempt to decrease the kind of service which is provided by dental or oral surgeons.

**Mr. Lewis:** By way of supplementary: The implication that flows from that, if the min-

istry will save fully two-thirds of the cost, is that the abuse of the programme was at a level of 66 per cent—which says something about OHIP and its competence—but it also suggests that the dentists, not just the oral surgeons but dentists generally, were engaged in a scale of abuse which is hard to believe. Surely the minister didn't mean it?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I would doubt that any specific dentist has been involved in any tremendous abuse of the system but, overall, a very large number of people have had multiple teeth extracted under the OHIP programme which the programme was not intended to cover. It has been a matter of discussion between the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Dental Association for the past several months that this potential difficulty should be removed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Any further questions?

**Mr. Nixon:** Will you permit a further supplementary?

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

**Mr. Nixon:** Will the minister look for the abuse beginning with those oral surgeons who are billing at the rate of over \$100.00 a year?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I promised yesterday that I would do that and I shall do so; we have begun today.

**Ms. Bryden:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Can the minister assure us, since she is discussing it with the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor), that this correction of abuses, or whatever she calls it, will not mean less dental care for welfare recipients who may have trouble even chewing their bologna?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is again confusing two matters, which are entirely separate. The matter of providing dental services under community welfare projects and that sort of thing is a matter of concern for the Minister of Community and Social Services. We have not intended in any way to decrease the services which are necessary for people in the dental area.

**Mr. Speaker:** Any further questions? The Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Lewis:** Perhaps, having dealt with the minister in charge of multiple teeth, whatever that is—

**Mr. B. Newman:** And bologna.



**Mr. Lewis:** —we can go to her colleague, the hooded fang on her right, and see whether we can extract from him some information—which would be a joy.

Can I ask the Minister of Community and Social Services if he intends actually to decrease the dental services provided to those on social allowance as indeed the Ontario Dental Association asserts will occur under the ministry's programme?

**An hon. member:** If they have fewer teeth, they eat less—

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** In response to the Leader of the Opposition, he may or he may not know—

**Mr. MacDonald:** That's a good answer. Stop right there.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** —that insofar as dental service to those receiving general welfare assistance is concerned, this is provided through contracts between municipalities and the dental associations.

**Mr. Wildman:** It's like pulling teeth.

**Mr. Swart:** Supplementary: Is the minister aware that in the Niagara region the cutback in funds for dental care for this year is from \$330,000 to \$50,000 because of the limitations to social services? Does he think this is good for the health of the welfare children and that in the long run it's going to save money?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Again, in response to that, the region determines the range of services that will be provided to welfare recipients. By that, I'm talking about the general welfare recipients. I gather they had quite an elaborate agreement in that region. The region has now determined that its priorities apparently don't dictate that the same range and level of service be extended. That will be up to the region.

**Mr. Cassidy:** It is your heavy hand that has done that.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Supplementary: In view of the fact that Metro has stated that it is likely to have to cut its \$67,000-dental programme by reason of the financial responsibilities which the minister has put upon them, could he comment as to his responsibility for this cutback in service?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Certainly, Mr. Speaker. I'll deny that the cutback in service is as a result of the restraint programme of this province and my ministry.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Deny it?

**Mr. Bain:** Then you'll deny anything.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** If the member wants a further explanation—and I don't wish to be unduly provocative or extended in my answer—

**Mr. Cassidy:** You are being provocative and it is just rubbish.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** —may I say that what will determine the type of agreement is the approach that any municipality may take in terms of the range of services. They may say: "If we're going to put a crown on, it should not extend to the acrylic type of crown." There may be a limitation on the types of dental work for adults. There are different ways of handling it. It will be up to the municipalities.

**Mr. Cassidy:** They are poor kids; let their teeth rot.

Interjections.

#### CARE FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

**Mr. Lewis:** I have another question of the Minister of Community and Social Services. Is the minister aware that the mental retardation co-ordinating committee of Metropolitan Toronto wrote his ministry toward the end of February pointing out that the 5.5 per cent ceiling imposed on the Children's Institution Act and the Homes for Retarded Persons Act would result, effectively, in removing from placement a great many young children who might be placed by private families in the community, that they have not yet received a reply and that it has raised within his ministry many discussions and issues, both destructive and bizarre? Does he understand that's going on because of the 5.5 per cent?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** No, that's the conclusion the Leader of the Opposition draws from some correspondence. It's not the conclusion that I would draw. If they haven't received a reply yet, it's in the mail—and I'm sure the Leader of the Opposition will have a copy of that.

**Mr. Renwick:** Send us a copy.

**Mr. Lewis:** By way of supplementary: Perhaps the minister could read or look at the memo which was sent by Alan Gordon, his assistant deputy minister for development resources, to Lloyd Jackson, the director of the mental retardation community resources branch, with a copy to the other mental re-

tardation people in his ministry, indicating the issues that were raised by this question. The memo pointed out—and I ask the minister about this:

Because of the financial constraints, Children's Aid Societies are reducing their number of placements, resulting in a number of vacant beds which cannot be filled. The ministry may want to force the freeze and closure—

[10:15]

**Mr. Reid:** Is there a question here, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Lewis:** Yes. "The ministry may want to force the freeze and closure of these residences, and thus we should not increase our—"

**Mr. Singer:** Is that a speech or a question?

**Mr. Lewis:** To continue: "—funding through the Homes for the Retarded Act." There are several other possibilities within his ministry. Does he understand—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think the question is inherent.

**Mr. Singer:** Question.

**Mr. Lewis:** Does the minister understand how destructive this all is in terms of his guidelines?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I don't accept that conclusion at all.

**Mr. Shore:** A supplementary: I understand this to be a semi-myth or a red herring; as I understand it, the 5.5 per cent is really not the true figure. Why can the minister not clarify to this House and to this province that any statutory requirements are going to be met? Why leave people dangling like this? I would like to hear the minister's comments on that.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Well, sure—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question had to do with the mental retardation services in Metro and it seems to me we are getting back to the other set.

**Mr. Reid:** You let the Leader of the Opposition go on for almost five minutes without asking a question. What kind of rules have we got here?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There was a question inherent in what the hon. Leader of the Opposition said.

**Mr. Singer:** It was inherent in his speech.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Leader of the Opposition have further questions?

**Mr. Lewis:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** Questions from the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk?

#### PICKERING NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy following his statement this morning. Since he has told us that the Pickering reactors have saved us \$500 million now, wouldn't he have felt that it would have been useful—and I now ask him—to tell us what is the cost of the further repair of unit No. 4, since somebody left a screwdriver in the coils when it was started up for the first time after having been shut down for many months to repair cracked tubes?

**Mr. Singer:** Ten months, he said.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** They weren't cracked tubes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Nixon:** How much is this new repair going to cost?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** As the hon. member knows, they were not cracked tubes; there was a problem with the rolling joints, the joining up of the various parts of the tubes for the heavy water.

**Mr. Shore:** How would you know?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** The problem was just discovered last night. There is not yet an estimate of the cost of repairs. It is covered to a certain extent, I understand, by insurance but if the hon. member wants to let me take that as notice, when there is an estimate and we know the extent of the insurance coverage, I will give him a complete answer.

**Mr. Nixon:** A supplementary: It would surely be easy to calculate that if it's going to be shut down four months, even without the cost of repair, this is going to be a tremendous loss to the energy system of the province.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I thought the hon. member was talking about just the cost of repairs. There again, rather than giving an estimate off the top of my head, I would sooner give an exact one.



**Mr. Nixon:** That will be fine.

**Mr. Germa:** Mr. Speaker, could I ask the minister if these repairs were carried out by private contract or by Hydro work forces?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I will take that as notice as well, Mr. Speaker. I want to make clear that my purpose in making this statement this morning was to allay the possibility of unsubstantiated rumours beginning in that area. I want to make it very clear that it is the non-nuclear part of the reactor we are talking about. I will take that as notice and, in answering the question put by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, I will include that as well.

**Mr. Germa:** Mr. Speaker, if the minister does find out that these repairs were done by outside contract, is it not reasonable to assume that the contractor should be responsible for the cost of any further repairs?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, again the member is getting into a hypothetical situation. I mentioned that it is my understanding that there is insurance coverage, probably with a deductible clause, but to what extent I am not sure. I think, again, rather than trying to deal with it piecemeal, I will, in answering the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk's specific questions on cost, include the member's concerns as to whether it was outside repair men or employees of Hydro, in the overall answer.

**Mr. Bounsall:** A supplementary?

**Mr. Speaker:** All right, a final supplementary.

**Mr. Bounsall:** Just a brief one to the minister on the close-down time of the unit at the station. Does this mean that the J. Clark Keith station in Windsor will continue to operate in order to provide the power lost?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** No, Mr. Speaker, because we are, of course, entering a period of the year when the demand for electricity declines substantially. I suppose if this had occurred in, let's say December or January when we are at our peak consumption, that would have to be considered; but recognizing the period of year we are coming into the mothballing of J. Clark Keith will not be delayed past May.

#### HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the acting Minister of Health. From her

statements, mostly made outside this House, can we now come to the conclusion that the four hospitals that were to be closed under the previous policy will now not be closed in the sense of being locked and boarded up, as was inherent in the statement made by the Minister of Health? May we convey the information to those people concerned directly, that the buildings will continue to be in operation in some useful capacity and, in fact, will not be closed?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, since I do not know the precise words which the Minister of Health used on each of the occasions—

**Mr. Nixon:** He said they would be closed.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —I presume that his statement inferred that the institutions would cease to be used as active treatment general hospitals. I have said that we are considering the proposals and the briefs which those four institutions have presented to us, and that in fact we shall be announcing the decisions regarding this within the next few days.

**Mr. Reid:** It's 1984 already.

**Mr. Nixon:** Supplementary: Since there was an implication that they would be closed—the statement was clear, and I'm sure the minister must have read at least his formal statement—would it be fair for us to communicate with those people directly concerned in my constituency and at Doctors Hospital, at Clinton, and in Durham, that in fact the facilities will continue to operate in some capacity? Can the minister assure us there is no possibility that the buildings will be locked and boarded up?

**Mr. Shore:** Claire Hoy can.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I would again say that it would be entirely fair to communicate to the people involved in those institutions that we are examining their proposals and their briefs, and the decisions regarding the institutions will be announced to this House.

**Mr. Lewis:** Supplementary: I take it that if the institutions are transformed in nature, as now seems to be emerging, if that should happen, I assume that accompanying the minister's statement will be the revised estimates of cost savings from what was originally announced to what will now occur.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we will be able to provide those figures at the time the decision is made.



**Mr. Speaker:** A supplementary; the member for Grey-Bruce.

**Mr. Sargent:** At the last meeting we had in the same vein, the minister had a list of 24 hospitals that were going to be closed. The Premier (Mr. Davis) doesn't know this. Will she tell him that's going to happen?

**Mr. Nixon:** Did the Premier tell the minister that it is not?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, might I say that I have never seen the list of 24 hospitals. I do not possess one. It was stated by the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) that there was such a list. I have never seen it.

**Mr. Shore:** It's in the shredder.

**Mr. Sargent:** Who knows about it?

### POLICE CHASES

**Mr. Nixon:** A question of the Solicitor General: Did he not state, when he was questioned about the tragic chase in Peel county that resulted in the death of seven young people, that the policeman was not operating at anything over legal speeds? If that is so, how can he justify the fact that at the inquest the policeman said he was travelling at speeds up to 100 miles an hour and not able to catch the pursued?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, I made a statement somewhat similar to that. I indicated that during the time they were in certain speed zones in the town and immediately outside the town, where the speed limit wasn't the full highway speed limit, that they had not been going over the posted speeds. I did say that, and that was the information I received at the time from an OPP report, parts of which I read to the press at that time.

From the evidence that has appeared to come out in the last two days at the inquest, it would appear as though that was not quite the case and there is a discrepancy there. I understand the inquest has finished, but the report of the inquest has not been made; and I would like to refrain from making any more comments on it until we do have that final report.

**Mr. Nixon:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Even though the minister would like to refrain from comment, is he not aware that his statement, either in the House or at least widely reported, allayed the very serious con-

cerns that many people had about high-speed chases, because if it had been clear at the time that a high-speed chase had resulted in this tragedy, I'm sure that the community response would have been much stronger than it was. Is the minister going to reconsider his instructions to the police having to do with guidelines in these matters?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, I don't think there is any need to change the instructions that the various police forces have outside of what I said that day. I indicated that we should have instructions similar to those that the OPP and some of the metropolitan forces have, in the hands of all police constables. That is in the process of being done; there is a set of guidelines approved by the Ontario Police Commission which will go out to all forces no matter how large or small. I said that at the time and I'm sure that should still be done.

Now I've wandered off and forgotten what the first part of the member's question was, sir.

**Mr. Nixon:** That's good enough.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there any further questions from the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk?

**Mr. Nixon:** No.

**Mr. Breaugh:** I wonder if the minister would table a copy of that OPP report? It seems to me rather damaging since the Solicitor General did say, in his initial response to the House, that he was quoting a police report and that might raise some questions in some minds. Obviously, there is a great discrepancy between the report which he referred to in the House and the information that was presented at the inquest. Could we see a copy of that report?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, I'll look that report over; I don't have it with me this morning. I don't believe there is any reason why I shouldn't table that report. I'll review it, and with that restriction I'll be pleased to table it.

I would point out that I don't think there is any great discrepancy from what I said the other day, which was based on an OPP report, and what has come out in the inquest, but that's the reason I want to refrain from any further comment.

**Mr. Lewis:** There's a discrepancy of about 50 miles per hour.



**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Not as far as the time is concerned. The member is suggesting now there was a high-speed chase. I'm not so sure it really was what one would call a high-speed chase.

**Mr. Nixon:** It was over 100 miles an hour.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there any further questions?

**Mr. Cassidy:** You guys are abusing the English language you know.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Singer:** A supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is this a supplementary? One final supplementary from the member for Wilson Heights.

**Mr. Singer:** Did I understand from the minister's reply to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk that mandatory instructions are coming forward from the Ontario Police Commission to all police forces in the Province of Ontario, including the OPP, including Metro, including the Halton police—the people in the Halton police seemed a little confused about that this morning—instructing them as to procedures in case of pursuits?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Yes, sir, I have asked that such guidelines should be prepared.

**Mr. Singer:** When will they be distributed and orders given that they will be observed?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** I can't answer that yet. I haven't asked them how long it would take, nor have I suggested that it should be done in a rush manner.

**Mr. Singer:** The OPP have them now.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** The OPP have guidelines and I assume that—

**Ms. Gigantes:** They don't work.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** —they are suitable for all of the forces, but at the same time, it's the police commission that I have asked to do this. I'm not so sure they want to adopt holus-bolus the OPP guidelines. Although, again, I guess there's probably no reason why they wouldn't be suitable. But I've asked the Ontario Police Commission to review the various guidelines that the various forces have. I'm not so sure that the Metropolitan Toronto police force guidelines are the same as those of the OPP. I don't think

they are. There may be some co-ordination required.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there any further questions?

**Mr. Singer:** Some guidelines are better than none.

#### CAVAN TOWNSHIP BUILDING FREEZE

**Ms. Sandeman:** I have a question of the Minister of Housing. In view of the considerable financial hardship—which I believe the minister is aware of—that individual lot owners in Cavan township are now suffering, and in view of the fact too that the building season is now opening up, could the minister tell me when he is going to lift the building freeze on Cavan township?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the problem to which the hon. member refers. We have discussed it informally and in letter form. The situation is that we have asked Cavan township to prepare zoning bylaws. They are in the process of doing that. I hesitate to remove the zoning order that I have on that township until such time as we get, from the township, a general idea of what direction they want to go within their development.

We are concerned about the scattered sort of development that will take place on individual lots and severances, which I think is very well in keeping with much of the attitude reflected by your own caucus as it relates to planning.

[10:30]

#### HOSPITAL CUTBACK

**Mr. Shore:** I have a question of the acting Minister of Health. Since the Victoria Hospital in London has pointed out gross errors in the figures and the corroborating criteria used by the ministry as reasons for its \$1.9 million cut at the hospital there, is the minister reviewing his earlier decision and when will this final decision be announced? Would the minister advise me why it has taken two or three days after the request was put by administrators in London to get the information that the senior officials of the ministry were not able to tell them and know where they got it? Could the minister advise on that?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, in answer to the last question—no, I can't, but I'll find out. In answer to the first question, the ministry is actively reviewing all of the proposals and the information which is being

submitted by the various institutions. We will be discussing with those institutions the resolution of the differences.

**Mr. Shore:** A supplementary: With the greatest respect, I haven't had an answer to that particular question as far as the gross errors aspect is concerned. Would the minister assure this House that when the officials find that information she will present it to this House? Why would the officials allow the hospitals to have to go under the conditions they are now? Why would the ministry not bring into its confidence top senior administrative people, who are right in the front lines of hospital administration, in establishing these criteria?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I am not at all sure that that has happened but I shall most certainly investigate to assure the hon. member for London North.

**Mr. Shore:** Would you report back?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I shall attempt to find out the information.

#### POLICE USE OF PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS' FILES

**Mr. Breaugh:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Solicitor General. On what grounds were the Metro Toronto police able to get a court order to review the confidential files of psychiatric patients at Toronto Western Hospital?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, I noticed in the Toronto papers the other day that the doctor there was complaining that police had asked for these files. I don't know whether or not they had any warrant or any authority to view them. I can get a report on it if the member wishes me to do so. I know nothing but what was in the paper. If they had proper authority to do so then, of course, it is in order; but if they didn't have authority, they shouldn't have been doing it.

**Mr. Breaugh:** A supplementary: That's a portion of the problem but the bigger problem is that a police force would actually review an entire set of psychiatric files, not just making an inquiry.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is that a question?

**Mr. Breaugh:** I want to know if that is acceptable precedent in Ontario, to have a police force review a complete set of files for one psychiatric hospital during the course of an investigation?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, I question whether those files are or are not properly available to the police; on the other hand, if they are properly available, I see no reason why the police shouldn't make use of them.

**Mr. Lewis:** By way of supplementary.

**Mr. Reed:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Energy.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If the member for Halton-Burlington would just wait a moment, please, I think we will allow a supplementary.

**Mr. Lewis:** I would appreciate it if the minister would give us a clarification, because what he said, whether he meant it or not, was that the police should have access to psychiatric files as a matter of course.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** I didn't say that at all, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. W. Newman:** He didn't say that at all.

**Mr. Warner:** Yes, you did.

**Mr. Lewis:** You did; you certainly did.

**An hon. member:** Even the Premier was surprised.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** I questioned whether or not the police should have access to those files; that's what I said at the start. On the other hand—

**Mr. Renwick:** It's your file, not mine.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** —if they have proper authority to look at them and they are available to them, I see no reason why they shouldn't make use of them.

Interjections.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Same as the NDP.

**Mr. MacDonald:** A supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There will be a final supplementary on this.

**Mr. Reid:** You can't argue with that.

**Mr. MacDonald:** If the minister questions whether police should have the right to go in and see confidential psychiatric files, will he move immediately to clarify the law so that that right will be withdrawn from them?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, I undertook earlier to get a report on this matter. All I am going on is the newspaper reports and I think that's all the member is going on



unless he has some brown paper envelopes which I haven't got.

**Mr. Reid:** Is the NDP caucus file there?

**Mr. MacDonald:** That would be par for the course.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** In any event, I will undertake to see whether or not this review of the files—if, in fact, it was done—was done with any authority.

#### BRADLEY-GEORGETOWN HYDRO ROUTE

**Mr. Reed:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Energy. Has the minister, as indicated on March 30, looked into the total Hansard situation to determine whether or not the statement I reported to him as being made by the former minister in November, 1974, was out of context? In view of the apparent discrepancy between that statement made in 1974 and the action taken by the minister in 1975, will the cabinet now give the Ombudsman permission to investigate the Bradley-Georgetown corridor?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, I have indeed. I just got back late last night from a meeting in western Canada and I found on my desk a copy of a press release issued by the hon. member.

**Mr. Shore:** Everything all right out there?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Yes, just fine thank you.

**Mr. Reid:** Are you going to make a report on that meeting?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I did, at that point, investigate Hansard and I found that in my opinion, in fact, the member was taking it out of context if he was trying to suggest that the comment by my colleague the former Minister of Energy, the present Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), was meant to apply to the whole route. In fact, it was not.

In fact I dictated, last night, a four-page letter to the hon. member, which he will get later today or on Monday, answering this point.

In point of fact, what the hon. Treasurer was answering on that particular date, Nov. 14, 1974, was a question from the former hon. member for York Centre which dealt with the portion of the proposed transmission line between points 33 and 95—in other words, between Colbeck and Limehouse—not with the whole line.

To answer the second part of the question,

discussions are under way with the office of the Ombudsman on this question, to define whether, in fact, he has jurisdiction under the Ombudsman's Act in this case.

**Mr. Reed:** Supplementary: When is the cabinet going to decide whether or not to give the Ombudsman permission to investigate?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of the cabinet deciding. It is a question of looking at the Ombudsman's Act and determining whether, in fact, under the terms of the Ombudsman's Act he does, in fact, have jurisdiction. I suggest to you that he does not.

**Mr. Lewis:** Under the terms he doesn't have; and he clearly doesn't have the money to launch the investigation.

**Mr. Reed:** Supplementary: Is the statement reputed to have been made by the minister on March 24—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please, it is difficult to hear with the interjections. Thank you.

**Mr. Reed:** Is the statement which is reported in the Georgetown Independent, which says it is now up to the government of Ontario to decide whether or not to give Ontario's Ombudsman permission to investigate the proposed Hydro corridor—a statement which was attributed to the minister by a Mr. Silverman of Global Television—

**Mr. Speaker:** Is there a question please?

**Mr. Reed:** —an accurate description of what the minister told him?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I didn't see the programme, Mr. Speaker, and I don't recall my exact words. If I said it that way then I said it wrongly. In fact, it is a question of looking at the Ombudsman's Act and determining the jurisdiction under the section—and I forget the section—dealing with executive council decisions.

**Mr. Nixon:** He would need a lot more staff to get into this.

**Mr. Lewis:** What do you mean looking at it? You know he is precluded from examining it.

#### PURCHASE OF HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT

**Mr. Warner:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Attorney General. Does the

Attorney General consider it legal for a supervisor of a publicly-funded hospital to use his position and public funds to develop new medical equipment within the hospital, then use his supervisory position to order the new equipment for the hospital from his own company?

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Riverdale has always advised me against giving off-the-cuff legal opinions. So my answer to the question would be that I would be delighted to consider the matter if my friend opposite would provide me with the total particulars which are in his possession at the present time.

**Mr. Lewis:** Your deference is appreciated.

**Mr. Warner:** Supplementary: If the Attorney General is willing to accept a plain brown envelope, would he be further willing to investigate the matter fully and report back? Is he willing to do that?

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** Yes, I'm willing to review the information and advise the Legislature as to whether, in my view, an investigation is warranted.

#### CENSORSHIP OF FILMS

**Mr. Singer:** I have a question of the Attorney General. Could the Attorney General advise what action, if any, Ontario is taking as a result of the unanimous decision of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, which determined that it was beyond that province's power to set up a board which dealt with censorship of movies being shown in that province?

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** We are naturally aware of that decision. As to whether the policy will change in Ontario, that is a matter for cabinet as a whole and I have no comment to make at this time. My personal view is that, first of all, that decision is not binding on the Province of Ontario. Whether or not we will be influenced by the wisdom of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal will remain to be seen, but that decision, as the member knows, is in no way binding on this province.

**Mr. Singer:** By way of supplementary, is the Attorney General going to intervene on behalf of the Province of Ontario when that decision finds its way to the Supreme Court of Canada?

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** No decision has been made in that respect at this time.

**Mr. Lewis:** Don Sims doesn't censor anybody. He just enjoys it.

#### LUNG RESEARCH ON STEELWORKERS

**Mr. Mackenzie:** Is the Minister of Health aware of the work of Dr. Ronald Woulf, a biophysicist at McMaster, on the lungs of employees of the steel mills, and of his training and expertise which appear to be both rare and in much demand, and of the fact that he's leaving shortly for the United States due to a lack of funding at the university?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I am aware of that specific physician and the work that he has done. I gathered from the information I had that he was leaving because of lack of research funds for the type of research which he was doing, which is a federal responsibility.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** Supplementary: Would the minister not try to find alternate funding, possibly through the industrial health or Workmen's Compensation Board or even the environment area, for this valuable research on the problems which are just emerging, and on the extent of the problems in the lungs of steelworkers in the mills?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I shall most seriously consider it.

**Mr. Bounsall:** Supplementary: Does the minister realize that research funds provided to the Ontario Research Foundation are specifically in the area of applied research, and this would be a most appropriate body through which this type of applied research should be funded? Will she investigate that aspect most seriously?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Yes.

#### WINDSOR TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr. B. Newman:** I have a question for the Premier. Has the Education Relations Commission reported to him concerning the effects of the disruption of secondary school education in the city of Windsor as a result of the walkout-lockout in the community?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** No. I checked before coming into the House and I expect a report from the commission, both on Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma and Windsor, sometime this afternoon.

**Mr. Deans:** Walkout-lockout? That's getting on both sides of the issue, isn't it?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** You have done a good job.

**Mr. MacDonald:** I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.



**Mr. Lewis:** Well, it's taken us years.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Yes, you have come a long way.

**Mr. MacDonald:** I hate to interrupt.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for York South is placing a question.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** It is his leader who is making the interjections.

### COMPUTERIZED CHECKOUTS IN SUPERMARKETS

**Mr. MacDonald:** With reference to the planned installation by supermarkets of computerized checkout systems using the universal product code, is the government going to respond to the widespread demand by consumers' associations that price identification of individual products should be continued in order to make comparison shopping possible?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** First, as far as we are aware there is one experimental installation in Ontario and we have been monitoring that. We have examined the installation at Steinberg's in Dorval. In both cases, there is product price identification at the shelf. There's also a means whereby the consumer can mark the price on the product before taking it to the cash register.

However, we have not yet accepted as desirable practice the whole concept of computerized checkouts. There are pros, and there are cons. Along with the consumers' associations, we've been weighing those, so we have not given our endorsement to the programme in its entirety. If we did, we certainly would be safeguarding the interests of the individual consumers.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Supplementary: Does the minister mean the interests of the consumer will be safeguarded by making certain there will be price identification on each individual item, rather than giving him a wax pencil when he goes in so he has to do it himself, if he wishes?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** No, I haven't made that commitment. I said we would safeguard the interests of the consumer in the implementation of the programme.

**Mr. MacDonald:** What does that mean?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** There may be a variety of ways of doing it, not just a single way, as the hon. member suggests.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Final supplementary: What other alternative way is there of pro-

tecting the interests of the consumer so that he can do comparison shopping, other than having the price on each individual item?

[10:45]

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** The one alternative that has been put to us is giving the consumer the option of marking the product himself or herself if he or she wants to.

**Mr. MacDonald:** That's a piece of nonsense.

**Mr. Deans:** Can you imagine doing that on a Friday evening?

**Mr. Lewis:** Better budget some money for pencils.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

### GUELPH ABATTOIR

**Mr. Worton:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Correctional Services. In view of the statement by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) that every effort was to be made to retain the \$168,000 that was payable to the Essex people, has the minister been able to obtain a legal opinion as to whether this can be used for payment to the farmers of the moneys owing to them?

**Hon. J. R. Smith:** Mr. Speaker, there is no legal way that could be applied to the debts owed to the beef producers; this was applied to the licensing fee for the beef station in Guelph.

**Mr. Gaunt:** A supplementary: On a matter clarification, since I gather the money has been paid, will that money become an asset of Essex Packers or otherwise?

**Hon. J. R. Smith:** Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the \$165,000 cost, resulting from an over-expenditure on the construction of the beef station, was applied at so much per month as a licensing fee to the receiver, and not to Essex Packers, and it is just about completely depleted.

**Mr. Shore:** The bank gets it.

**Mr. Nixon:** So the bank gets it and the farmers don't.

### WCB STAFF NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Bounsall:** A question of the Minister of Labour: Will the minister involve herself directly in what is coming to be a very dragged-out procedure at the Workmen's

Compensation Board in management's negotiations with the newly formed CUPE union of the staff over there to ensure that a first contract gets signed rather quickly?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I am sure that all the provisions of the Labour Relations Act of Ontario will be applied in this instance and that the problem at the Workmen's Compensation Board will be resolved shortly.

### COMPULSORY USE OF SEATBELTS

**Mr. McKessock:** I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

**An hon. member:** Wake up, Jim.

**Mr. McKessock:** Because of the number of complaints and petitions that I and others have received on the legislation on compulsory seatbelts, would the minister consider putting the question, "Are you favour of compulsory seatbelts?" on the ballot at the next election and let the people decide whether this legislation should be compulsory or not?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Oh, here's the new policy of the Liberal Party. Where is Albert? Holy smoke!

**An hon. member:** Jack, did you hear this?

**An hon. member:** The member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. Spence) didn't want it.

**Mr. Yakabuski:** He didn't want it; you wanted it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The answer?

**An hon. member:** Was that caucused?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Do you want a plebiscite as to whether people want an election?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We are wasting valuable time here.

**An hon. member:** We sure are.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** I wonder, could the member repeat the last part of his question? I didn't hear it at all.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** It is such a gem we all want to hear it.

**Mr. McKessock:** Would the minister consider putting the question, "Are you in favour of compulsory seatbelts?" on the ballots at the next election and let the people

decide whether the legislation should be compulsory or not?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** What are you in favour of, reversal?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Aren't you embarrassed?

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Mr. Speaker, as you well know, and I am sure the hon. member knows, when the legislation was passed a few months ago all members of the Legislature present that day voted in favour of the legislation. I don't know whether the hon. member himself was here or not that day.

**An hon. member:** He was playing tennis that day.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** It may have been a tennis day, but—

**Mr. Yakabuski:** You all wanted it. It was a private member's bill.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** In the light of the statistics that I gave the House yesterday on the first two months since the legislation was introduced, at this time I certainly have no intention of making a change.

**Mr. Speaker:** The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to the House today the report of the Ontario Law Reform Commission on mortmain charitable uses and religious institutions. This report proposes some fundamental changes in the law governing land holdings by charitable corporations and recommends substantial alterations to the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act.

In particular, the report proposes the abolition of the licence in mortmain and its replacement by a registration system similar to that in use for extra-provincial corporations. The commission also recommends revision in and consolidation of the statutes under which charities are required to report their financial affairs.

In its review of the Religious Institutions Act, the commission proposes major changes so as to permit religious bodies other than Christians and Jews to take advantage of its provisions respecting the holding of land by unincorporated groups. I will be studying the implications of the report and will be discussing it with my colleague, the Minister



of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), who will have a major interest in these proposals.

The government will be consulting with representatives of religious and charitable organizations to ascertain their views on these recommendations. From this process of public consultation, I will bring forward appropriate legislation to modernize the areas of the law which clearly need to be brought more in tune with modern society.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motions.

Introduction of bills.

#### PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

**Hon. Mr. Snow** moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Mr. Speaker, this very short amendment to the Public Commercial Vehicles Act is intended to alleviate certain of the problems that have been experienced by users of and carriers of class R commodities whose established business practices have historically carried them across the present regional boundaries. By this amendment, the minister may issue an operating licence for two prescribed regions of the carrier's choice rather than the one as is now permitted under the Act.

#### MID-ERIE ACCEPTANCE CORP. ACT

**Mr. Eaton** moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting Mid-Erie Acceptance Corp. Ltd.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

#### ATHLETICS CONTROL AMENDMENT ACT

**Mr. Grossman** moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Athletics Control Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

**Mr. Grossman:** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill would be to require the use of the newly developed hockey helmet with face-guard that covers the eyes of hockey players, during all amateur-league organized hockey games—particularly, of course, by the younger hockey players.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I wish to table answers to questions 7, 8 and 10 standing on the notice paper. (See Appendix, page 987.)

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

**Clerk of the House:** The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

#### THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

**Ms. Sandeman:** Mr. Speaker, when the House adjourned last night I was addressing myself to some remarks in the Speech from the Throne which announced that the government now realizes it is necessary to streamline government programmes regularly to prune out redundancies or waste that might arise. I commented that I took that for granted as part of the procedures of government, but what made me concerned was, in fact, that many programmes which are necessary are not in place. I spent some time talking about the fate of children now in training schools under section 8 of the Training Schools Act.

This morning I would like to address myself more precisely to the question of pruning out redundancies and waste, which the government has been attempting to do, it says, by cutting back spending in general hospitals. My colleagues have spoken at length on the closure of hospitals; I'd like to look at what happens to a general hospital which is told that it must cut back its expenditures.

I'd like to take as my example Peterborough Civic Hospital. This is a very average general hospital in what is often described as a super average Ontario city.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Described as what?

**Ms. Sandeman:** A super average city. Chatelaine magazine described it that way. "Could you live there?" they said.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Yes.

**Ms. Sandeman:** As an aside, I might say the Chatelaine article also said the women of Peterborough had not yet discovered politics and it didn't look as if it was likely that a woman from Peterborough would ever be elected to any office.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Chatelaine is becoming the sociological authority for Ontario.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Chatelaine has been wrong before.

**Ms. Sandeman:** It might be again.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Circulation will go down.

**Ms. Sandeman:** I think the recent experiences of Peterborough Civic Hospital can be looked on as representative of what's happening to similar hospitals across Ontario, as well as illuminating some general truths about how this government is handling health care spending. This situation, of course, is of particular concern to the people of Peterborough and area, and I'd like to speak very briefly about two facets of the situation at Peterborough Civic Hospital: Firstly, the \$550,000—just over half a million dollars—that the hospital has been required to cut from its spending, and I'd like to relate that to a budget shortfall they experienced last year. Secondly, I'd like to speak about the psychiatric programmes at that hospital and in that area of eastern Ontario.

As long ago as last July, Peterborough Civic Hospital made requests to the Ministry of Health for help with a shortfall in their budget. It became evident to the administration of the hospital that the price of medical and surgical supplies and drugs was rising much more rapidly than they had budgeted for, and there were other items in their budget which they had underbudgeted. They asked the ministry for some help.

The discussions with the ministry continued until March of this year. The hospital carefully documented its spending, and took extremely stringent cost-cutting steps on its own initiative in, for instance, inventory control, use of laundry, and not filling empty positions in the hospital. It took the ministry an extremely long time—from July, 1975, to the end of March, 1976—to recognize there was indeed justice in the request for a budgetary supplement. Finally, \$95,000 was granted to the hospital as a supplement for the 1975 budget.

However, how very different affairs are when the situation is reversed. When the ministry wants to go to the hospital and say, "You must cut \$550,000 from your spending," the ministry doesn't give the hospital from July of one year until March of the next to discover how it may do that. No, the hospital is given one month and four days to decide how it can possibly cut out that money and, in fact, start doing so. Not only does the ministry expect the hospital administration to act nine times as quickly as the ministry does itself when making budget decisions but it

does not do the hospital the courtesy of giving a detailed rationale of the figures arrived at, whereas the hospital, in its turn, patiently and frequently documented its own spending for the ministry.

[11:00]

The process of deciding that Peterborough Civic Hospital must cut half a million dollars is based on that mystical process, regression analysis. I find that procedure interesting and perplexing. It's a procedure in which the computer is asked to measure paid hours, which are a constant, against a series of variables such as patient days, pounds of laundry, people coming into the hospital, people being discharged, and a variety of variables. One problem the hospital has with looking at these variables is that it is not clear if they are weighted in any way—if a pound of laundry is worth more or less than or the same as a patient being admitted to hospital.

An interesting anomaly occurred in the figures which were finally supplied to the hospital after some weeks of asking. When the hospital began to look at the variables it found, for instance, that in the obstetrical department at Peterborough Civic Hospital the variables fed into the computer included pounds of laundry, of course, and admitting the patients but nowhere was there any figure which covered delivery of babies, which seems an extraordinary lack in a department whose main business is to deliver babies. I wonder if Peterborough Civic is being expected to save money by finding their babies under gooseberry bushes in the fine old fashion.

In fact, the ministry at first said it couldn't provide a departmental breakdown of overspending, if any, in the hospital. It explained that the cuts necessary were arrived at on a global basis after this regression analysis procedure had been carried out. The hospital found itself very confused at being told that somehow it had overspent or was overbudgeting by half a million dollars. The ministry's own statistics and the HSI statistics from the Ontario Hospital Association show that Civic Hospital is below average in its spending in all areas except in some special services which that hospital provides.

One might ask what are these special services which are provided by Peterborough Civic Hospital? It has a remarkable record, for instance, in outpatient surgery. Peterborough Civic Hospital performs more surgery on an outpatient basis than any other hospital in its group.



The percentage of surgery on an outpatient basis at Civic Hospital in 1972 was 42.5 per cent of the total. In 1975, that percentage had increased to 52.4 per cent of the total surgery in the hospital. Over half the surgical procedures in that hospital are done on an outpatient basis which means that the hospital is not put to the expense of keeping patients overnight. It's very careful to cut its costs in that kind of way and, of course, can only bill the ministry for a daily rate rather than the overnight rate.

If one compares the outpatient surgery rates at Civic with other hospitals, we find that the average for the 28 hospitals in the Peterborough Civic Hospital group is 19 per cent of surgery being done on an outpatient basis; whereas at Civic, as I say, it's over half the total.

That decision to perform surgery in that way was consciously and rationally arrived at by the administration of the hospital who, for years, have been conscious of the cost saving involved; of the increase in efficiency involved; and the fact that patients can be treated for minor surgery as outpatients and then sent home with proper backup. This kind of procedure is obviously to be encouraged—it's encouraged by the ministry—but the hospital feels that it is being penalized for this.

Other special services that the hospital provides include an excellent diabetic day-care clinic on a 100 per cent outpatient basis. Excellent preventive medical care is being given in that situation. It has psychiatric outpatient services and psychiatric day care, which deal with many patients who are not admitted as inpatients to the hospital but receive first class services on an outpatient basis. All of these services and others that the hospital gives, reduce the need for expensive inpatient care and they provide preventive care of a very high calibre for the community.

The hospital looked at its cost and it said to the ministry, "If our statistics show us as spending below the average in all areas except our special services, and if our costs are unusually high only because we have special outpatient services, is this where we should cut back on our spending?" "Well no," said the ministry officials, "we won't allow you to cut those special services."

So we arrive at an extraordinary circular argument where the hospital is told, "You are spending more than you should by half a million dollars." The hospital says, "We believe that the reason we are spending more

than other hospitals in the group is because of our special services and we believe we can document that," and the ministry says, "Well, if that's where you are spending too much, that is not where you may make your savings."

The hospital is put in the ridiculous position of having to close 30 beds of inpatient care in medical and surgical wards because it is spending too much on psychiatric outpatient services—too much, that is, according to the ministry's calculations, certainly not too much according to the needs of psychiatric patients in the Peterborough area.

One of the ministry's officials commented during these discussions that the hospital had with the ministry that regression analysis is rough justice, that it tags institutions which are high cost but it doesn't show why they are high cost. There is no way that the preliminary studies of regression analysis can show whether that high cost is justified or not, and indeed it may very well be that so-called high-cost institutions are doing a better job, a different job, or providing special services.

We know, of course, what rough justice means these days. It's the phrase which alerts us immediately for injustices. In fact, with the lack of information which is given to Peterborough Civic Hospital and to all the hospitals which have undergone this regression analysis procedure, those hospitals are unable to make rational decisions about where to cut the amounts they are asked to cut—half a million dollars or whatever it may be—and are forced in the Civic Hospital case, as I say, to close 16 surgical and eight medical beds which involves laying off 30 staff, most of whom are nurses, and we know what the employment picture is like for nurses. That's been discussed at considerable length in this House recently.

The hospital felt it imperative to act quickly to close those beds, because it realized that for each day they stayed open after yesterday, April 1, it would be overspending at the rate of \$15,000 a day and it wasn't prepared to jeopardize its budget later in the year. In fact, by bringing in arbitrary demands that the hospital cut large amounts in a very short time, with no helpful background information provided, the ministry was forcing the hospital to make arbitrary cuts in its turn.

The letter that arrived at the hospital requiring these cuts to be made contains a very strange sentence, which I would like to draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker. The letter, to the executive director of Peter-



borough Civic Hospital from Mr. Alan Backley, tells the hospital that it must cut out \$550,000, and says, "It is recognized that your hospital may have to reduce the availability of essential services required by your community." We've already heard some "new-speak" here this morning, and I think we're about to see a redefinition of essential services.

Let me just turn briefly to the ramifications of the decisions made about spending on psychiatric services in Peterborough and in the surrounding area. Within the past 18 months, Kingston Psychiatric Hospital, for which Peterborough is a feeder, so to speak—psychiatric patients from Peterborough go to Kingston Psychiatric Hospital and Whitby if they can't be treated in Peterborough; but most go to Kingston—has had a total loss, at the ministry's insistence, of 58 staff and now it has been told it must reduce its staff by a further 74 in the 1976-1977 fiscal year.

We are told that closure of beds does not take place before alternative services are in place. The alternative psychiatric service for the Peterborough area, if closures are taking place at Kingston which they are, would be found in the promised expansion of the Civic Hospital psychiatric department from 25 to 68 beds and a concurrent opportunity to increase the outpatient psychiatric services at the hospital.

But the expansion of the psychiatric department at the Civic Hospital has been put off once again. We're not even sure now that we shall be given permission in Peterborough to proceed to working drawings for that psychiatric facility this year. Meanwhile, acutely ill, long-term patients from the Peterborough area are being refused admission by Kingston Psychiatric Hospital but the facilities at Civic Hospital are intended mainly to provide short-term active treatment of less severely ill patients. Some of the severely ill patients are being admitted to Civic Hospital but it leaves a severe shortfall of psychiatric beds in the Peterborough area.

Where are these acutely ill psychiatric patients to go? We are waiting for the ministry to provide interim arrangements for them, but while there are bed shortages at Kingston and bed shortages at Peterborough for psychiatric patients the situation is very grim. I think the community would have to agree with Mr. Backley when he says that essential services required by that community may be reduced.

The pressure on beds in the psychiatric services in Peterborough is nothing new. The problem has been documented for the minis-

try for at least two years. We were aware that even when Kingston Psychiatric Hospital was working at full capacity before the staff cuts started not all the patients from Peterborough who needed beds there were getting them.

In 1974, the Peterborough Civic Hospital dealt with 1,080 psychiatric patients. Of those, 332 were admitted to the psychiatric unit at Peterborough Civic Hospital; 68 were sent to Whitby Psychiatric Hospital; 268 were sent to Kingston Psychiatric Hospital; and 412 of them had to be admitted to the regular medical and surgical beds in Peterborough Civic Hospital.

That was two years ago when over one-third of the psychiatric patients in Peterborough could not find psychiatric beds and were putting unwelcome and unnecessary pressure on medical and surgical beds. That was before the high level of staff cuts at Kingston Psychiatric Hospital began and before Kingston started refusing, even more firmly than it is now, patients from the Peterborough area.

Mr. Chatfield, of the ministry, commented some time ago that 1,000 psychiatric beds must come out of the system and there's been some discussion with the CMHA and with the hospitals about how this should be done. There's a new formula, apparently, for Kingston Psychiatric Hospital. The ratio in the acute ward at that hospital is now 1.4 patients per clinical staff member, which effectively reduces the care at Kingston Psychiatric Hospital to custodial care; it is in no sense fully effective active treatment. Custodial care is all that can be given to acutely ill patients with 1.4 patients per clinical staff member.

[11:15]

The plans for the Kingston area appear to include the Queen's Medical Sciences Centre which will become the active psychiatric hospital for the Kingston area and will not be part of the catchment area for Peterborough any longer. It looks as if Kingston Psychiatric Hospital will be reduced even more to tertiary—that is, custodial care—while the active psychiatric patients from the Kingston area go to Queen's; meanwhile, Peterborough Civic Hospital will desperately need its new active treatment facility for psychiatric patients. And the planning in the Kingston area is dependent on the assumption that Peterborough will have an enlarged psychiatric unit of 68 beds.

The planning at the moment seems to me to be in a total shambles. With staff cuts, with a refusal to admit patients to active treatment beds in Kingston, with a kind of



freeze on the planning procedure, we are in a desperate situation for psychiatric patients which is mirrored in other communities in the Kingston-Whitby catchment area.

Both the situations I have outlined to you, Mr. Speaker—the situation of children who should be looked after in the community and currently are in training schools under section 8, and the situation of general hospitals such as Peterborough in terms of their general services and psychiatric services—make me very sceptical about the fine promises declared in the Speech from the Throne.

We see a restraint programme which is reducing essential services to troubled adolescent kids; which is reducing essential services to mentally ill adults which does not ensure that alternative and adequate services are available for those children or those adults before the cuts are made; which does not take into account the needs of individuals; and which promises unacceptably high costs in the long run.

Troubled adolescents who go unhelped, and disturbed and unmanageable adolescents who go unhelped, will cost us all money, both in terms of financial costs, their unhappiness and unacceptable social costs. And the return visits of psychiatrically ill adults who do not get adequate treatment will cost us more in the long run. The inability to function of those psychiatrically ill adults will cost us more in the long run, besides costing them and their families unacceptable unhappiness and suffering.

Because of such failures as these of the government in its present restraint programme, our party has brought an amendment before the House, which states in part that we regret the government's failure to develop an overall policy for the delivery of services and its failure to respond adequately to the financial needs of vital social services, particularly as exemplified to the Children's Aid Societies.

I, for one, shall have no difficulty at all in supporting wholeheartedly that amendment to the motion to accept the Speech from the Throne; and I would have no difficulty at all if the need should arise, and I rather hope it does, to explain my stand and that of the New Democratic Party to the voters of this province on those situations.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, I too would like to make a few comments on this occasion, which provides an opportunity to every member to make a reply to the Speech from the Throne. First, may I congratulate the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Rowe) and the hon. member for Lake Nipigon (Mr.

Stokes) on the fine way in which they are conducting the business of this House.

My first comments concern the length of the speeches during the debate on the Speech from the Throne. I have nothing whatever against anyone who wishes to speak for any length of time, but I think in fairness, to allow all members an opportunity to speak, there should be some type of time limitation.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Talk to the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway); he took three hours.

**Mr. B. Newman:** The reason I say there should be a time limitation is so that everyone who wishes to speak will have that opportunity. Looking at the number of speakers who still want to make comment, there is absolutely no way that all of them will have that opportunity, simply because half a dozen others wish to use more than their fair share of the time.

**Mr. Cassidy:** You can help them by sitting down.

**Mr. B. Newman:** I would say that the time perhaps should be allocated to speakers on an individual time basis, and a total time given to each party, so that each party can speak, let's say, for the want of a figure, 20 minutes times the number of members that it has and in this way it would be allocated fairly. So if one member wishes to speak for two hours, there's nothing wrong with that. But, as a result, some other member in his caucus will not have that opportunity to speak.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Have you talked to the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell)?

**Mr. B. Newman:** I'm not criticizing the previous speaker one bit. I knew yesterday that the member for St. George did speak for more than 20 minutes, and the criticism—if it is criticism, and I hope it's constructive—refers to all of us. Likewise, there is always the discussion in the House as to whether we are using the 45 minutes allocated for the question period. I would strongly suggest as I have in previous times, Mr. Speaker, that a clock be on the Clerk's desk with a one-hour circle so that you, Mr. Speaker, can control it and after 45 minutes a bell goes off and that's the end.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Big alarm.

**Mr. Haggerty:** You can get a grant from Wintario on that one.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Especially at 8 o'clock at night.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, earlier in the proceedings of this House, I asked the Premier if the Education Relations Commission reported to him concerning the effects of the disruption of the secondary school education in Windsor as a result of a walkout-lockout of recent days.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Which side are you on?

**Mr. B. Newman:** When I said lockout I referred to the teachers going out on strike. I did not refer to them simply walking out of the job. The lockout was the board locking the teachers out. So we have two situations in there, both a strike and a lockout, and in the interests of the students we would like this resolved.

The first topic that I would like to bring to the attention of the House is one that I found in the March, 1976, issue of the *Friendship News*, a publication of the Windsor senior citizens' centre, a very fine publication, edited by an Al Stephenson and assisted by a Miss Agnes Pineault and a Mrs. Shirley Smith. It's a publication that brings to the attention of senior citizens items of special interest, not necessarily local interest but interests that could affect them in their dealings with both provincial and federal governments.

The first article that really appealed to me was an example of unfair tax laws. I'm reading from the article:

A Mr. Herman Swanson, a member of the team that has been providing free income tax service to senior citizens for several years, agreed with our brief mention of tax unfairness last month and submitted the following article: [This is kind of interesting. It shows how \$1 in income can adversely affect you to the extent of almost \$70.]

Not only are the so-called simple income tax forms far from simple, they are downright discriminatory. Let us examine the federal and Ontario tax table first. If you have a taxable income of \$1,400 you do not pay any income tax. But if you have \$1,400.01 of taxable income you pay \$2 federal tax and you pay \$61.60 Ontario tax. [Just for one cent you are taxed to the extent of \$63.60. But wait, there is more.]

When you make out your Ontario tax credit form if you had \$1,401 in taxable income you would have to subtract two per cent of your taxable income from your total Ontario tax credits, amounting to \$28.

[So that one extra dollar affects your tax credits to the extent of \$28.] But if you

had \$1,395 or less of taxable income you subtract nothing.

So you can see, Mr. Speaker, that just cents, so to speak, affect the senior citizen by dollars. One can't quarrel with the federal tax table as it is constituted; but to say that there is room for improvement in this method used by the federal and Ontario governments to calculate income tax is certainly an understatement.

When the National Pensioners Association presented their annual brief to the federal government on March 3 of this year, one of the resolutions pointed out that the people with low interest income were being discriminated against. Those who have very little interest income get no advantage. For example, if two persons had the same income and the same personal exemptions, but one person had interest income of \$1,000 while the other person had interest income of only \$300, the person who had the \$1,000 interest income would have a \$700 greater tax exemption than the one with only \$300 interest income. As the Act says, one can deduct up to \$1,000 of the actual amount of interest income, whichever is the lesser. So one can see that even on the interest income, there's a substantial disadvantage to the individual who has the smaller amount. Then take into consideration the one who doesn't have any; his standard of living has been decreased by \$1,000.

There is another interesting article in there. I don't intend to read it, but I do hope that the Ministry of Community and Social Services keeps a very close eye on the experiment that will be conducted in Sweden effective July 1 of this year and that concerns the flexible retirement age. Too many of our senior citizens who work up until the age of 65 have never had the opportunity to prepare themselves for an early retirement. A lot of the times it's because they needed every dollar they could possibly earn to keep themselves in some type of a standard of living. We would hope it would be higher, but in a lot of instances it isn't.

As a result of working all their lives, then being retired on reaching the magic age of 65, all of a sudden they're told they're no longer good enough for the work force. They are put out on retirement without any type of preparation for coping with retirement. Maybe we're going to have to take into consideration, as in the Swedish experiment, a flexible retirement age so that these people can adjust to what is coming in the foreseeable future.



In the interests of economy, as the government keeps preaching economy, I just want to bring this one simple example of waste in government, and this can be multiplied by thousands and maybe a hundred-thousand fold. I received this from the Ministry of Revenue, a familiar brown envelope with one mimeographed sheet, 8½ by 11 inches. Why in the dickens couldn't this have been put in our postal boxes? Why had time to be wasted to insert it in an envelope and then put it into our boxes? Mind you, one of the good things is this envelope is not addressed, so it can be used again. But time and time again, I find this from all governments. Rather than simply folding this as some of the ministries do, we still have ministries in government that will throw away cents which make dollars in the long run. Surely those ministries that are using this practice should check on it. Let's save the few cents we can and we'll find out very quickly that that mounts up into substantial amounts of dollars.

My first topic is the unemployment situation. Probably the most important thing that we could concern ourselves with is jobs and unemployment. My own community happens to have either 10.3 per cent or 10.8 per cent of the work force unemployed. That's an extremely high number. It really is intolerable.

[11:30]

Mr. Speaker, you can imagine the effect such a high unemployment rate is having on the whole community and the social effects it is having on many of the families. There may be one bit of salvation in this in the fact that some are still eligible for unemployment insurance and are not suffering to the same extent as those who have no unemployment insurance benefits.

There has to be some method of resolving some portion of the unemployment problem. Government, management, the unions or a combination of all of them have to sit down and see if they can't come up with an answer—maybe not a complete answer but a partial answer—to the problem.

I don't have the answers but I can make a suggestion. My suggestion is the one I made on March 21 last year and, I think, one year prior to that when I introduced a bill entitled An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

In listening to television back home—what little time I do have to listen to it—and seeing and hearing the meetings of the UAW in the city of Detroit and some of the demands they were going to put to their employers in future

negotiations; and listening to the members, the executives from the UAW and from my own community making constructive suggestions, I think government, management and labour are going to have to sit down in an attempt to distribute the amount of work available over larger numbers.

It is wrong for one person to sit at a table and gorge himself while others at that same table are starving or not getting their fair share. What is the difference if it is at a table with food or if it is in a community with hours of work available? In my own community and, I would say, in many communities throughout the Province of Ontario there are many workers who are working substantial numbers of hours of overtime.

I can understand them wishing to have the additional overtime. I can understand the economic conditions with them. They have mortgaged themselves, so to speak, over the hilt and have heavy mortgage payments. Not only is the overtime needed by that individual but in many instances the wife and/or the children have to go out to work to take care of the high cost of housing and the high cost of other consumer items which they must buy.

I can understand their concern but that is exactly the same for them to take more than their fair share of the hours of work as it is for an individual who takes more than his fair share of food at a table. It has to be distributed a little more equitably.

My bill, at that time, attempted to distribute work a little more evenly. I admit it will probably be a little costlier than it is today. It will be costlier to the manufacturers; it will make the price of the consumer item increase. I admit that. I don't know how you could come along and hire more people and reduce the price of an article you are selling but something has to be done to distribute better the amount of work available in our work world.

My bill would have limited the work day to eight hours; the work week to 40 hours. I really think it is out-fashioned in today's society. Eight hours a day and a 40-hour week might have been good enough maybe two or three years ago but in an attempt to accommodate more people in the work force we are going to have to reduce progressively the work week. Maybe my suggestion of an eight-hour day and a 40-hour week will have to be phased down so that it becomes a 39-hour week one year, then 38, 37, until we get down to a figure so that the amount of work available is distributed over a larger number of people.



I know we have to have overtime in some jobs because there could be a machinery breakdown or something of that sort. If we don't get it fixed up immediately it is going to mean everyone is going to lose work the following day.

Let me bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, the attitude of the union on this, which is commendable. I am going to bring out the names of the union leaders in the community who speak out strongly. They were speaking out on this in an international meeting in Detroit trying to show their brothers in labour in the US, where they also have to consider the suggestions that are coming from our Canadian labour leaders. Let me tell you that a lot of our Canadian labour leaders are by far more progressive than many of them across the border in the United States.

**Mr. Kerrio:** Many of them are Liberals too.

**Mr. B. Newman:** There are a lot of Liberals. I wouldn't be here if they weren't Liberals.

Interjections.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Thousands of Windsor workers are collecting plump paycheques by putting in long hours on the assembly line; but for many more there is no assembly line. The only paycheque they collect is from a government computer and a lot of times that computer breaks down as you yourself know, Mr. Speaker, when you have unemployment insurance problems. The reason for the delay in payments or the incorrect amount was always blamed on a computer. A lot of those problems have been resolved today and things are moving a little smoother but still it is the computer while here we have fat paycheques and unemployment insurance. Can't we find a good balance between the two?

Overtime has become an accepted institution in Canada since the Second World War but the current recession is forcing the labour movement to look closely at the effects of extended work hours. One of the most powerful unions in North America, the UAW, over the last year had the bitter experience of seeing thousands of its members laid off while others piled up overtime.

I can speak from seeing this. The Chrysler plant is only three-quarters of a mile away from my home. The parking lots are filled up on a Saturday and Sunday quite often. I know darn well that a lot of these fellows would prefer not to have to work on the Saturday and Sunday, to be able to enjoy that time with their families and in the summers enjoy it maybe just in leisure. But maybe from financial commitments or maybe even pressure

on the part of management or someone else, they are forced to work overtime, even though I understand in the Chrysler situation all overtime is voluntary. But you know that sometimes "voluntary" has two different ways of applying.

The UAW has now decided that existing penalties in keeping employees on overtime aren't stiff enough. In the 1976 contract talks with the big three, the union is expected to press for bigger financial penalties for extended hours, probably double-time and triple-time in place of the current time-and-a-half and double-time. It is cheaper for management to come along and pay overtime than it is to spread the work out to a greater work force. The only way you are going to get management to come along and hire extra people is at the point when it is more economical for them to hire additional manpower.

Some workers in the community are putting in over 70 hours a week by double shifts on weekends. That's probably not many more hours than some of us work here and I know we can work 70 hours without any difficulty. Some of us spend probably eight hours just coming to our job. Maybe I am wrong in eight hours; it might even be substantially more than that.

The article makes mention that they can earn as much as \$110 to \$115 a week clear on overtime only, so one can see that over the course of a year, if that individual works 50 weeks a year that's \$5,000 in extra revenue clear. I don't begrudge him that, but I do think that the work has to be spread over greater numbers. Let's try to equalize the work opportunities.

Mr. Charlie Brookes, UAW Local 444 president and chairman of the UAW's Canadian council, says present penalties no longer discourage corporations from scheduling overtime. He said companies now find it cheaper to pay overtime rates than to put more workers on the payroll and pay their fringe benefits. The fringe benefits average about \$2.50 an hour by those who work for the big three. Mr. Brookes said corporations will stop scheduling overtime as soon as the cost of it is boosted higher than that of hiring more workers. He considers overtime a serious health problem, and I quote: "A lot of those guys are burning themselves out. They are working for an early date with the undertaker."

Overtime, says Mr. Brookes, is a case of one worker putting in extra hours in order to pay heavy income taxes to support another worker who remains jobless. To some members overtime seems to be a way of getting



over financial hurdles, but it gets him in over his head and then he is in constant search of overtime or a second job. They get so accustomed to that additional revenue they elevate their standard of living to assuming that they're going to keep earning that same amount, and then when overtime is cut out they have to jog around in an attempt to get a second job opportunity and then deprive someone else of that opportunity to work.

Mr. Brookes said Local 444 members in Windsor can average more than \$20,000 a year if they accept all the overtime that is available. Those who take it are not working out of a hole, as they think, they're working themselves into a permanent hole.

John Moynahan, the president of the UAW Local 195, the biggest auto parts industry union in Canada, believes workers won't be fighting to stay in the plant if they're given an adequate living wage based on a normal work week. If we have a normal work week we can spread the work out to many more individuals in our society. He says: "How can we argue for a shorter work week while our people are demanding more overtime?" That's the big problem. Some demand more overtime, yet the union would like to have a shorter work week. As I said earlier of food on the table, one eats more than his fair share and then the others don't get it.

Mr. Moynahan says we must get wages to the point where an employee can maintain his standard of living on a five-day work week. He said overtime should only be scheduled in emergency situations.

There's a little different situation when it comes into the construction trades, because weather affects the construction trades. They don't have that same opportunity for extended work, a 52-week work period, and as a result there may have to be, in any type of legislation or consideration, some factors built in to accommodate and to compensate for conditions that would affect those in the construction trades.

[11:45]

Pat Doyle, business agent for Ironworkers Local 700, which represents 500 southwestern Ontario structural steelworkers, strongly supports overtime for the construction industry. He wants overtime and he makes a good argument for it. Members of his union get double pay for overtime and rarely turn it down. Regular wages will be in the area of \$13 an hour in 1977. Mr. Doyle says: "Our people would like to get more overtime to bring them up to a full year's pay."

Now you see, they are not being work avaricious, they simply want to elevate their standards so that with that overtime they are

getting a year's pay. They are affected by weather conditions. Those who are not affected are in a completely different category.

As Mr. Doyle puts it:

Bad weather conditions and unemployment keep most construction workers from coming close to the 2,000 work-hours a year averaged by industrial workers. In our business it's often a race against time because of weather, construction deadlines and uncertain delivery schedules. We need to use all the daylight hours available. It amounts to "make it while you can."

Probably all the members of the House are familiar with the name Paul Forder. He's the political education director of the Ontario Federation of Labour who sent various questionnaires out to each of us prior to the previous election, and again sent information out to us after an election as members of the Legislature.

Mr. Forder says that he or the Ontario Federation of Labour, is going to make the issue of overtime an issue in the presentation to cabinet. He said the Ontario Federation of Labour will urge the provincial government to stop issuing overtime permits to corporations except in emergency situations. With 800,000 Canadians unemployed, said Mr. Forder, the labour movement must intensify a bargaining drive for measures that will result in a minimum amount of overtime. He said corporations get off cheaply with overtime because it doesn't involve any additional health and benefit costs, administrative costs or training expenses.

Mr. Forder thinks there will inevitably be a hue and cry from a minority of union members when their leaders take steps to eliminate overtime. Naturally, those who are receiving overtime hesitate to give it up but those who are not working at all and haven't been working for a period of time certainly would like their fair share of work available.

The other big local in the community is Local 200 of the Ford Motor Co. Mr. Steve Harris, president of that local, represents approximately 4,000 workers in the city of Windsor. At one time it was approximately 15,000 but with the switch of operations from the Windsor area to the Oakville area, the 15,000 work force has dwindled to approximately 4,000.

He comments that time and a half means nothing to the company as a cost factor. Mr. Harris says overtime shifts are scheduled at Ford's Windsor operations right up to the summer vacation period. He said some emergency overtime is necessary because of the breakdowns but the union takes the posi-

tion that more workers should be hired to help boost production. The guy working overtime isn't making that much more per hour because he is actually subsidizing the government with his taxes.

An interesting comment comes from one of the pioneers in the labour movement, one who has made a real contribution in the past; that is Mr. George Burt, who is the former Canadian director of the UAW. He said unions never meant overtime to be a means of increasing worker income. Mr. Burt, who is now 72, says: "Overtime rates were won in the 1930s, but the Depression kept extending hours from becoming an important problem. Prior to the war, we were lucky to get 30 hours a week".

Overtime was first heavily used during World War 2, said Mr. Burt, when it was needed to spur production in spite of manpower shortages. He said corporations since then have come to realize that overtime is a bargain compared to cost of hiring new workers, training them and paying for costly pensions and fringe benefits.

Overtime is unfair to those who are laid off. It is unfair to those who work it and it is unfair to Canada. We are all paying welfare and unemployment insurance benefits.

Those are comments concerning the limitation of the work week so that overtime can be used to hire many more individuals rather than giving it all to a select few. I know were I probably working in an auto industry, I too would like to have all of the overtime available in an attempt to prepare for a rainy day. But is it really fair to take more than your fair share?

Mr. Speaker, I have a whole series of topics that I was going to comment on, but I will simply touch on them very briefly so that the record will show that this member from the Windsor area is extremely concerned about more than just one issue, the issue of overtime.

The auto trade pact is an extremely important issue because Sen. Vance Hartke of the United States, truly a rabble-rousing Senator, wants the auto trade pact discarded. He doesn't see the benefits from the auto trade pact, which was strongly endorsed by the labour unions. In fact, the pact originally was suggested by the late alderman, Bill Riggs, on the Windsor city council; and it was Prof. Bladen of the University of Toronto who conducted the study that led to the auto trade pact.

The auto trade pact was an attempt to rationalize the manufacturing of automobiles

in the two jurisdictions so that at least we could get our fair share. Mind you, I'm not saying we got our fair share. I'm saying we should be able to get our fair share. Where we have fallen down tremendously on it is in the parts industry.

All the automobile companies are owned by the US interests. But when it comes to parts manufacturers, the majority of them are substantially small, independent and Canadian-owned and operated. They are the ones who are suffering. So if there is any change in the auto trade pact, I would sincerely hope that the changes are to adjust that difference in the parts industry so that we in Canada get our fair share. I don't ask for more than what we are entitled to.

We are fortunate that the automobiles being made in Canada today are big sellers in the United States. Subject to correction, I think 85 per cent of the production at Chrysler is exported to the United States; as a result, our people at Chrysler are working. On the other side of that token, a lot of the other cars are being imported from the United States; and the parts especially are being imported.

But there is another problem that is going to come up very shortly; that is, looking at the world-wide picture today, where an engine may be made in Brazil, the undercarriage could be made in France, the generators and so forth could be made in Italy and then all of them are brought to an assembly plant in some Canadian centre, and then put together, qualifying in some fashion under the auto trade pact.

The auto trade pact has to be looked at very closely; it's got to be brought along and made so that it is fair to the Canadian auto worker. I would prefer it to benefit us substantially, but for the sake of fairness, just as in the case of overtime I would like to be fair, I would like to be fair in the case of the auto trade pact. The automobile industry is the prime source of income to many people living in the community.

There is another problem when it comes to work, and that is the number of students who shortly will be put into the work force with very little concern registered on the part of perhaps governments or industries, or perhaps a combination of both. Just as the Ministry of Natural Resources uses the Junior Ranger programme, which is an excellent educational and work programme, I think the government has to look at other areas where we can provide employment to students, and especially students who are going to continue their education. The reason I say that, is that



we either provide them with funds to carry on or we're going to give them loans or grants. Why shouldn't we come along and allow them to earn some of the funds needed to go into post-secondary education and even in secondary education so that they can buy some of their books and clothing and so forth to make it a little easier on the family, especially if the family is a low-income family?

I know some will say how do you do it? If I had that amount of brain, I wouldn't be here and many of us wouldn't be here either. We'd be living a little easier type of life rather than going through the long hours of work, which all of us must like or we wouldn't be here.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I thought you were referring to that side of the House.

**Mr. B. Newman:** I beg your pardon, I didn't hear you.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Oh, don't bother. It isn't worth it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

**Mr. B. Newman:** I think government is going to have to assist these students in some fashion by finding work for them. Sure we've got Experience '75 or '76. It's going to provide, I think, 7,500 jobs. One of the bad things on that is that last year, when we had Experience '75, one of the students in my community wrote in immediately—I shouldn't say immediately; actually it was before the time for an application. She wrote the letter, had her name in and everything of that sort, and never received a reply. She finally wrote again but it was too late. This hurts me. Here we're trying to encourage these youngsters to improve society, improve themselves and be good citizens, I hope. I don't think the jobs are being given to any with favouritism being shown, but I think that programme has to go through Manpower in a community and the individual applies there.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, will the hon. member take a question?

**Mr. B. Newman:** No, the minister will have a chance to get up.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the hon. member should continue. This is not a debate.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Let the minister sit down.

**Mr. B. Newman:** I want to give two other people an opportunity to speak yet today.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** He won't take a question?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is not a debate.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** He's afraid of questions.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has indicated he wishes to continue.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Ask me before the question period.

We've got a way of providing these funds to students and to others. Wintario just makes scads of money. What better social and cultural benefit could moneys be put to than trying to assist these young future parliamentarians in obtaining an advanced education. Let's not have education the sole right and prerogative of those who have the financial wherewithal.

I know a lot of us in here haven't had the financial wherewithal to get the education that we got, but let's not have everybody, or too many, suffer as a result. Let's try to help them when we can help them and I think government can come along and help. They've got to find some method, and I don't just mean make-work where no benefit is obtained from it. There can be programmes established such as the Experience '76 programme, but on a broader base so that more young folk can be given this opportunity.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** How many more?

**Mr. B. Newman:** I have some comments to make on the nuclear power dangers, the outlook concerning that in the United States and the comments made by US scientists concerning even our own Candu reactor not being safe. I know the Ministry of the Environment hasn't looked into it.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** What about the Rasmussen Report? Did you mention that?

**Mr. B. Newman:** The US government is looking for a dumping site for their nuclear waste, their plutonium. Where do you think they're looking for it? Right under the city of Detroit. They've got four or five million people in that vicinity and they're looking at the salt mines down there to dispose of material that will take over 1,000 years to deteriorate. We don't know with our present technology what could happen with it. I hope the overall ministry, and the Ministry of Energy in particular, looks into the US energy research and development administration attempt to find a dump site for highly radioactive waste from nuclear power plants in

the US—not in Canada—by putting it right in the city of Detroit, which can adversely affect millions of people.

[12:00]

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** They are also looking at Nevada and New Mexico.

**Mr. B. Newman:** I was going to make comments concerning PCBs and legislation which has already been passed in the Michigan State Legislature controlling them. I don't have time.

I was going to ask the Ministry of the Attorney General to look into or to be a little more active concerning hockey violence. The recommendation I was going to make was to use a point system just as we have for driving licences where one loses points after certain violations. Let's do the same thing in hockey so that certain penalties are going to mean a certain number of points. When the player has accumulated a certain number of points he can't play hockey for a given period of time; that's all. His living is gone.

Let me tell the members that violence would decrease in a hurry. In the same way an individual is scared that he is going to lose his driving privileges by losing points, likewise they could lose their playing privileges through violence in hockey.

I was going to talk about gas stations and the big oil companies, the adverse effect they have on the stations and the vertical integration there which has to be broken so that none of the big gasoline companies is going to be operating the stations or having any connection with them other than providing the fuel. The others would be all independently operated.

Mr. Speaker, to enable others to have their share of the time, I would like at this time to thank those of the members who have stayed in the House to listen to the humble remarks by the humble member for Windsor-Walkerville. Thank you.

**Hon. Mrs. Birch:** I would like to begin by offering my best wishes to the Speaker, the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Rowe), and to the Deputy Speaker, the hon. member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes). I hope that during this session they may be successful in their efforts to assure that the atmosphere in this chamber is marked by dignity and an amiable spirit.

As the member for Scarborough East I would like to say a few words about my riding and about my borough. I have lived in Scarborough for almost 20 years and for many years I was involved in the life of my

community as a volunteer with many of the agencies which provide the social services.

I believe, and I can't stress this too much, that communities such as Scarborough are fun places in which to live because of the community participation in such programmes. The people in Scarborough have accepted their responsibility for each other. They have organized many social programmes on a community basis and they have developed those programmes with a lot of voluntary participation. That is the kind of dedication and involvement which governments just can't provide.

While I am on the subject of responsibility, I would like to turn to this government's measures—responsible measures—for dealing with the growing costs of social and other services. I believe this kind of responsible restraint is what the people of Ontario want from their government. I believe it is important for all of us in this chamber, if we hope that the debates and deliberations here will serve interests beyond partisan ones, to understand that what the people of Ontario want and what this government is proposing is no dismantling of a system of services which people have come to depend on. It is no downgrading of the importance of government's role as a provider of services.

I can give the most compelling evidence of that by stating the simple fact—one simple fact—that this year the people of Ontario, through their government, will spend more than \$8 billion, some two-thirds of the total provincial budget, on social services. I believe that fact is a clear demonstration of the very high priority this government continues to place on the services of people.

We will continue to have disagreement in this chamber. Part of the function of the debates we have here must be to state those disagreements clearly, so that the people of Ontario can decide. Yet, when we speak of the social services it seems to me that too often a large part of our effort is bent not to the clear presentation of our views but rather to the distortion of the views, philosophies and motives of our opponents.

The dilemma that we all face in Ontario and across Canada in the social services is very real. If there is not action to stop the process that we have witnessed in recent years—where each year the cost of each service increases more quickly than either inflation or our total wealth as a society, apparently regardless of the numbers of people using the service or even the effectiveness of the programmes involved—not only will government's consumption of our total wealth have to increase to impossible proportions,



but the capacity of governments and of communities to respond to new needs will be hopelessly compromised.

My colleagues and I do not believe that government's share of our total wealth can be permitted to increase indefinitely. We believe the individual citizen of Ontario is a far better and more prudent manager of his or her own affairs, responsibilities and income than any government can ever hope to be.

Our critics have a somewhat more optimistic view of government and of its capacity. They say that government can take greater and greater portions of the wealth that results from the productive work of people across Ontario without creating any serious disincentive to productive work. They believe, and sincerely, I think, that the results of government spending decisions will almost always be of greater general benefit to the community than the individual spending decisions people may make with regard to their own income. They believe, I think, that there are very few problems that are beyond the power of government, armed with the taxpayers' dollars, to resolve.

As I say, those are all legitimate beliefs. I hope I have not misinterpreted them. They are legitimate, although anyone who has watched the experience of governments in other jurisdictions—and I might mention Alberta, British Columbia, New York and England—will find it difficult not to feel that they are also very naive.

I believe there are beliefs that run contrary to the traditions and practices that have built the prosperity we all enjoy here in Ontario. We have succeeded in becoming one of the best fed, best clothed and best housed people in the history of civilization. In Ontario, we have built one of the best—and perhaps the best—systems of social services in the world. Our health, education and programmes such as GAINS are admired, studied and copied by many other jurisdictions. What has made all of these achievements possible has been the initiative and incentive of individuals. They have created the wealth that makes our social services possible.

When we talk of priorities and of the choices that governments must make, it seems to me to be only logical that we consider not simply whether government ought to devote resources to this social service or that, to this programme to create employment and opportunity or that, or to the police or to the roads, but that we consider the very basic alternative of choosing to leave the resources in the hands of those who work to earn them. The experience of this society has proved that it is often a very creative alternative indeed.

But no one on this side of the House has suggested that the essential services government provides should be removed or dismantled. We have said that the rate at which the costs of these services increase must be subject to a realistic restraint. We have said that the people whose work produces the wealth that pays for our social services have a right to demand that their government take the steps necessary to assure the greatest possible efficiency and effectiveness in the colossal amounts of spending that are devoted to these services.

I would suggest that the deliberations in this chamber will be more useful to Ontario if all members understand it is possible to be concerned about the rate at which the costs of social services have increased, without in any sense denying the collective responsibility we share to all those among us who need our help.

We will not pretend that all of our actions to achieve control of the rate of growth in social services will be pleasant for everyone. I think it is safe to say that those who are employed in the social services can no longer expect their relative financial positions in society to improve perhaps as quickly as they have in the past decade or so. When one has come to expect constant and rapid improvement, that is really no small matter.

Those agencies that rely in whole or in part on government financing will find themselves faced by a demanding financial discipline. After years of rapid budget growth, that is no small change. But anyone who, like me, has worked with these agencies, will have little doubt either that there is room for improvement in their efficiency or that the people who operate them do have the capacity to realize that improvement. But enough funds will continue to be available for our network of social services to continue to meet the needs that people in Ontario encounter in their daily lives.

We have studied these matters in great detail and very carefully, and we believe the control we are practising on increasing costs is realistic. But all of us in this chamber will be watching closely to assure ourselves that the effects of restraint do not seriously hinder the provision of necessary services. I would suggest that serious efforts to promote greater efficiency and effectiveness within social programmes are more appropriate now than the indignant anticipations of disaster that will never happen.

It is important to remember that the levels of support for social services in Ontario, even with our efforts to restrain cost increases to a realistic level, are generous.



**Mr. Reid:** Does this mean we're going to have a tax increase? Is that what you're telling us? Are you getting us set for a tax increase on Tuesday night?

**Hon. Mrs. Birch:** But not all of our disagreements with our critics will be about the level of financial support available to the social services. Once again, some of our friends in the official opposition will disagree with us on a philosophical basis about the rate at which new services can be introduced and existing services expanded. I believe we should make our differences clear to the people across Ontario, because they will finally have to decide between the two positions.

In a sense, the development of many of the social services in Ontario has been a process whereby responsibilities that were the individual's or the community's, in a general way, have now been delegated to government, either because they were too onerous for the individual or the community or too difficult for them to discharge, or because the consequences of any failure to discharge them were intolerable. So we developed systems to provide health care, education, financial security and all the other services that we have built. But where it is possible my colleagues and I believe it is preferable for the individual to meet his own responsibilities directly, whether we are speaking of him as a parent or a spouse or a citizen. We believe that the greatest possible area of personal responsibility is a positive benefit to the individual and to those who depend upon him or her in Ontario. Some of our critics feel no such respect for the individual meeting of responsibilities. They see no particular disadvantage in having more and more responsibility delegated to the state, regardless of need, and that is where we differ very basically.

[12:15]

We believe that the state should intervene to meet those responsibilities that are beyond the capacity of the individual. Where people are generally able to discharge a particular responsibility without state assistance, we would favour the provision of particular assistance to those who, for some particular reason, need it. Our critics favour the assumption of responsibility by government, whether the general run of our population are able to discharge that responsibility or not. They believe there is something better in the uniformity of a government service than in the multi-faceted system that evolves from the various ways that individuals, acting

voluntarily, choose to discharge their own responsibilities.

I believe that people in Ontario do not want or need further government help or interference in the discharge of the responsibilities they bear as parents, spouses or citizens of communities. I believe they would prefer to retain the greatest possible portion of the incomes that they work to earn and be free to meet their responsibility in their own way. I do not believe that government is the repository of any special capacity to make problems go away simply by taking to itself a greater share of our total wealth or the sum of the responsibilities throughout our society.

Government does not have personal independence within its gift. Government can provide an income; it can provide food, shelter, and clothing, but these material goods do not equate with personal independence. We say that those who are able to work and have the opportunity to work should not live on welfare. We say that will help to restrain growing welfare costs but we say too that we believe a continued dependency on the government, when there is a realistic alternative is bad.

People who can work should work. They should contribute to the community around them and to its total wealth. It will benefit them materially and it will benefit them with a satisfaction and an independence that is not available any other way. I am aware that there are those who consider such beliefs to be, at best, old-fashioned and, at worst, heartless. From them I can ask only that they do my colleagues and me the credit of accepting that we hold these beliefs very sincerely, that a large number of people across Ontario share these beliefs with us, and that they are based not merely on a concern about levels of spending—

**Mr. Reid:** Only 38 per cent.

**Hon. Mrs. Birch:** —but on a clear conception of what best serves the interest of the individuals involved and of the community as a whole.

Interjections.

**Hon. Mrs. Birch:** Being able to work, having an opportunity to work and support oneself and those who depend on you and then being asked to work is not, in my view, an indignity.

**Mr. Warner:** Is raising children work?



**Hon. Mrs. Birch:** As the minister responsible for the policies and the directions we follow in the social services, I have not tried to argue details or statistics. That role could be more properly performed by my colleague.

We, in government, are attempting to protect the interests and to follow the wishes of the people across Ontario. As we perceive them, there are different perceptions in this House. None of us can pretend away the very real dilemma that governments across Canada face as they attempt to achieve some realistic control of the rate at which the social services are increasing.

The final decisions about how we deal with that dilemma will be made by the people of Ontario as they choose among the positions the various parties take. The dilemma is real and its resolution is critically important—too important, I would suggest, to deserve anything other than the frankest and most open debate we can bring to this chamber.

**Mr. Warner:** Can you explain the \$2 million debt, then?

**Mr. Bain:** Mr. Speaker, today I would like to discuss some problems which I believe are very serious, especially when one looks at the words contained in the Throne Speech as delivered by the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, outlining the policies of this government.

The policies of this government as contained in that speech are riddled with omissions and failure. Failure because the Tories have done nothing to guarantee safety in the work place; they have done nothing to relieve the difficulties faced by farmers. For over three years, they have done nothing to resolve the caution on the Timagami area.

This government has supported Northern Telephone in its practice of charging \$800 to \$1,000 for the installation of a telephone in rural areas. Now the government is in the process of depriving people of proper health care and in the process of waging war on children who cannot defend themselves.

For anyone who has any knowledge of the communities associated with the extraction of resources, the problems which have existed in the mining industry for years have been of deep concern. The story of United Asbestos is not a pleasant one.

This company is located in Midlothian township, southeast of Matachewan, and was due to start operation last summer. Still today the asbestos mill is operating at about 30 per

cent capacity and recently the government was finally prodded into action and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) took a safari to the mill site. I would suggest that it is going to take more than one visit by the minister and his ensuing contradictory remarks to get the mess at United Asbestos cleaned up.

I will quote from some of the reports tabled in the House, which came out of that visit. The first I refer to is one from the occupational health protection branch, dated March 10:

This asbestos mill has been in operation for about eight months. It has operated below capacity, 30 per cent capacity. Both area and personal air samples were taken in the mill.

Of course, personal air samples, I feel, are much more important and more valid than the area samples because the personal air samples are actually taken by the men as they work in their individual work places.

Some of the comments in the report are as follows: "Some operations in the quality control room, particularly dumping of asbestos on benches without local exhaust, could be hazardous."

I would suggest that's an understatement. "Dry sweeping is carried out in the mill by cleaning crews." As anyone who is familiar with asbestos plants knows, dry sweeping is not desirable. "Incoming air through vents without baffles on the fifth floor agitated dust on the floors."

Some of the comments in the report from the mines engineering division, Ministry of Natural Resources, that came out of the same visit are as follows:

During the period of the survey it was noted that general housekeeping improved considerably due to the conversion from dry sweeping to portable vacuum cleaners.

I would suggest that the most important part in that reference is, "during the period of the survey." Of course, when people are on the site from the Ministry of Natural Resources or from occupational health, conditions improve. But what happens when they leave?

The report also makes reference to respirators. Respirators, as far as I am concerned, are just another way of trying to cover up the basic issue. These in fact are not respirators; they are simply masks that fit over the mouth and the nose. It has been proved repeatedly that these masks, if worn beyond two hours per shift, will cause enlargement of the heart and ensuing heart difficulties.

Some of the readings from the occupational health survey in the area are indeed disturb-



ing. As I mentioned earlier, area readings are not very indicative of the actual work place, but in this case only one out of 10 was beyond the acceptable level of two fibres per cubic centimetre. In the personal samples, six out of 11, or 54 per cent, were beyond the acceptable limit of two fibres per cubic centimetre. In the Ministry of Natural Resources samples that were taken, three out of nine of the area samples, or 33 per cent, were above the acceptable level; and in the personal samples eight out of 11, or 72.7 per cent, were above the acceptable levels. There were also samples that read as high as 12.8, 8.1, 7.3, 7.9, 6.8, 6.5. These readings are indeed alarming if one considers that the plant is operating considerably below capacity, and when it does operate at capacity the amount of asbestos fibres in the air will be even greater.

After the trip of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) to United Asbestos, this directive went out from the Ministry of Natural Resources to the mine manager at United Asbestos. I won't read it all, but suffice to say I'm paraphrasing it accurately when I say that the only items mentioned were that respirators were to become mandatory, which in fact are nothing more than gauze masks; and the sample results are to be posted in the plant. And that's about it. Where is the directive to the company to clean up those hazardous working conditions, which the minister now admits do exist? In the House the other day, the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) said there were such directives and she would make them available to us. That has not yet been done.

As early as the fall of 1975, the Ministry of the Environment at Timmins threatened—and I quote from an actual letter to the manager—that “if the pugmill is not cleaned up, it may be found necessary to cause your operation to be shut down.” If that was the case then, I submit it is even more the case now and, as the mill is shut down and cleaned up, the men should be retained on complete and full pay. The company has had numerous warnings and has responded in each case by doing nothing. In each case the mine manager sent a letter back to the authority from whence came the letter, saying that all is now in order.

All has never been in order and it still isn't today. Conditions have become so bad that the Manpower office in Kirkland Lake now refuses to send men to United Asbestos. It advises them of the risks, and if they choose to go they do so at their own risk.

As we all know, Manpower always insists that people take available jobs. If Manpower is not directing people to United Asbestos the conditions indeed must be bad—so bad,

in fact, that in an area of high unemployment, United Asbestos cannot find adequate numbers of workers. Recently, they have taken to advertising in the *Globe and Mail*, “Immediate opportunities available with United Asbestos.” Needless to say, they mention nothing about the working conditions.

I would suggest that if the government needs any more factual information it just go and ask the workers. Let it ask the workers what they think of United Asbestos and ask them about the conditions. They will tell the government that men are covered with asbestos; there is asbestos in piles all over the plant, on the floors and on the machinery; asbestos covers the men when they go into a lunchroom; asbestos is in their lockers where men put their street clothes that they bring to work in; and because the company will not allow them two lockers, put their work clothes in that locker when they come off the job, mixing their work clothes and their street clothes together, so that they are certain of taking asbestos fibres home to their families.

The men have asked for a laundromat where their clothes could be washed, and they have also asked for a double set of lockers, so they could avoid taking asbestos home to their families. The company refuses to budge.

What's going to happen in 10 or 15 years to these young men who are now starting to work at United Asbestos? Is the Minister of National Resources (Mr. Bernier) going to be around then to go and tell them there was no danger, when they are suffering from asbestos-induced diseases?

The problem is so serious because there is irrefutable proof that working in these kinds of conditions is a hazard. Dr. Selikoff, of the environmental science laboratory, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York, has made the results of his detailed and very reputable studies available to the public. Even under one month of exposure doubles the chance of death from asbestos diseases. With one year of exposure, you would expect the average person in the population who was exposed to conditions on the site to have this kind of disease. You would expect 3.7 out of 105 workers to get this kind of disease; roughly four workers out of 105. But in the actual study that Dr. Selikoff did, it was 20 workers. In the study he did, out of a total of 805 men who were exposed to asbestos, we would expect that, statistically speaking, 33 men out of 805 would get diseases that could be induced by asbestos. Yet, in the actual study, 156 men



ended up with asbestos-induced diseases, and the ensuing suffering that resulted.

It's important to remember that in the short time that the mill at United Asbestos has been operating, 200 men have already passed through that plant.

United Asbestos is indeed an interesting company in that it's almost impossible to find out who owns it. If one looks at Statistics Canada, foreign ownership of United Asbestos is indicated. From this source, 75 per cent is said to be controlled by foreign owners. Four of the directors are from the United States, and there is also Japanese money involved in the financing of Matachewan. The net income of the company in 1975 over 1974 was up 81 per cent—certainly a tidy return—but the company still refuses to act to clean up the mill.

One might say that if we push the company, they would close up their operation and the jobs would be lost. As someone who grew up not more than 25 miles from Matachewan, I am fully aware of the situation that existed in Matachewan when the gold mines closed and a population of over 3,500 people was left without jobs, with the small exception of a few jobs in other areas. Basically the entire economy was pulled out from under the community.

We were all happy when Matachewan was going to experience growth because of the location of United Asbestos there, but we are not happy with the present conditions, nor are the people of the community. If the company should threaten to close down, I would suggest that would be entirely a bluff. The company has over \$33 million invested in this project and they are unlikely to close the doors and walk away.

But they must be forced to clean up the plant. There should be a committee consisting of three men—one representative from management; one representative from among the workers; and one of the inspectors from the occupational health protection branch who warned the government last fall of the hazardous conditions—which would have control of the working conditions in the plant. This committee would have the power to close down the plant, direct cleanup operations and ensure that the workers were compensated in wages for lost time. This I believe is the absolute least that the government could do.

If the company should close down the operation because of the government's insistence, which I have yet to see, that the plant be cleaned up, I would think that this would

be an excellent opportunity for the government to do something that was worthwhile and innovative. The government could take over the operation as a Crown corporation, and because it was closed down and the corporation refused to operate it, this would only devalue the actual operation in dollars and cents terms, so the government could obviously pay a reasonable price for it; it wouldn't be exorbitant. The government could set it up, as I said, as a Crown corporation. There would be workers on the board of directors and the workers would have a veto power on all matters of safety in the plant.

**Mr. Warner:** Called industrial democracy.

**Mr. Bain:** Yes, it is called industrial democracy. I hesitated to use that phrase with the government because last time I used it, the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine) didn't know what those words meant, so in this case I trust they understand what would take place if United Asbestos was operated as a Crown corporation. Not only would this be a model of worker participation in the running of a plant, it could also become a model of what can be achieved in safe working conditions in the asbestos industry.

The government has a strong obligation to act in the case of United Asbestos. Failure to do so will jeopardize the future health and happiness of countless men and their families.

If we look also at the area of agriculture, we find another area that the government has at best been slipshod about. I won't get into as many aspects of agriculture as I would like to today. If I recited the government's poor record in this area, I would be going on for several hours.

Suffice it to say that one matter that has been recently brought to my attention that disturbs me greatly is that two years ago the provincial government actively encouraged farmers to get involved in the production of industrial milk. This government instituted the Industrial Milk Production Incentive Programme, whereby it lent farmers money to set up an industrial milk operation.

If I might quote briefly from a letter that was sent out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to all farmers who enrolled, it goes as follows:

An increase in industrial milk production on your farm is required in order to obtain a refund on the principal payments that are due in the second, third, fourth and fifth years of the loan.



In order to qualify for the benefits of the loan the farmer had to increase production; but now what's happened?

The federal government has indicated to the farmers that they are to reduce production and, in fact, on recent pay cheques the farmers have received for their butterfat, they were paid for only 60 per cent of what was shipped. Can members imagine working and getting paid for only 60 per cent of the work they do, considering the rising costs that farmers are faced with?

One farmer I visited took out his loan in 1974. He was asked to fill out a sheet indicating his costs. At that time he estimated that in 1976 his hydro for a year would be \$350. His actual hydro for the two months just passed was \$250. His costs are escalating. He's in danger of losing all benefits under the industrial milk production incentive programme loan which he took out. He's going to be penalized on that loan and he's also being penalized because now he can't produce the milk he needs to pay off the loan.

This government, because it encouraged farmers to get into industrial milk, has an obligation at the very least to redo the terms of the incentive loan so that farmers won't be further penalized.

The government's record in cow-calf stabilization is not a good one. Recently it has been asking farmers to make a commitment to a \$10 premium per cow—whereas last year, it was \$5—without any commitment whatsoever from the government as to what the support price will be; or any sort of commitment as to what poundage of animal the support price will apply to.

Needless to say, farmers are not willing to accept this kind of pig-in-a-poke attitude by the government. It's time the government was straight with farmers, sat down with them and honestly negotiated with them for a decent support price for the cow-calf operators.

As I mentioned in my introductory remarks, and as I exposed to the House yesterday in my question to the Attorney General, there has been a caution on 110 townships in the Timagami area since 1973. Since many members are not aware of the situation in regard to the caution, I think it would be beneficial to outline some of the problems and some of the repercussions which will be evident if the government refuses to act.

On Aug. 14, 1973, a caution under section 48 of the Land Titles Act was registered in the land titles office in North Bay against unpatented lands in 110 townships in the Timagami area. This caution, in effect, has been a land freeze and has caused a great deal of

difficulty for people in the area, since they can't obtain any loans from the bank, because they can't receive clear title to their land. The community itself is unable to expand in any way. In effect, the community has been held in a state of limbo.

The government is supposed to assist in the resolution of this problem. A directive circulated within the Ministry of Natural Resources in the summer of 1974 indicated that the claim as registered by the Bear Island Indian Foundation is sufficiently strong that the claim should not be resolved through the courts for fear that the Crown would lose.

I might briefly add that the principle which would be established and set by this precedent would be the same one that would give the Indian people of the Northwest Territories the right to their claims in that area. In effect, this claim and its resolution is not only important for the Timagami area but is important for other areas of this province and of this nation.

[12:45]

The Attorney General's office therefore suggested very strongly to the Ministry of Natural Resources that its claim be resolved through negotiations that would be undertaken by the Ministry of Natural Resources with the Bear Island Indian band.

The Ministry of Natural Resources refuses to do anything, and in return indicates that it is something that should be settled by the Attorney General. But the Attorney General, as was indicated yesterday, is not really aware of the problem and his ministry is not doing anything. Nobody, whether in Natural Resources or the Attorney General's office, is doing anything to resolve the problem; and the people in the Timagami area are experiencing a great deal of difficulty.

That's just another area of government inaction. I hope, now that this has been pointed out clearly to the government, that it will embark upon a clearly stated policy to resolve the caution, either through negotiations or through the courts, so the people in the Timagami will know when they can expect this caution to be resolved.

Something that I could not believe when it was first brought to my attention—and I am sure the members in this House cannot believe it either—is that Northern Telephone Corp. is charging rural communities as much as \$800 to \$1,000 per phone as an installation charge. When was the last time anybody in an urban area was charged even \$100 to install a phone, let alone \$800 to \$1,000? If this was happening in Toronto, you could rest assured that the government would take



action. But because it is happening in a rural area, the government refuses to do anything.

I submit that the government has a moral obligation to ensure that people all across this province, whether they be in rural communities or in urban areas, get the same rates and the same rights. And I would suggest that the next time Northern Telephone applies to the Ontario Telephone Services Commission for a rate increase, which it is going to do within the next year, that the government should say there will be no rate increase until the people in the rural areas have phones installed at the same installation charge that is charged to urban dwellers.

**Mr. Grossman:** In Metro Toronto you sometimes can't get a phone at all.

**Mr. Bain:** I am sure that if you are a Tory backbencher the phone company is wide open to you. Unfortunately, these people don't have the same "ins" that you have.

**Mr. Grossman:** My people still can't get the phones.

**Mr. Bain:** The problem of educational TV is one that has been brought up in this House repeatedly by northern members. I would just like to add one thing; Everything they have said about the need in northern Ontario, about the lack of facilities in comparison to southern Ontario, is true—and I want to second what they have said.

The government was forced to go ahead with the transmitters at Sudbury and Thunder Bay, after it was pointed out by the official Opposition that we were going to lose \$900,000 by defaulting on those contracts to have those transmitters installed. The government grudgingly went ahead with the installation of those transmitters—but they will only be hooked into cable television in both those communities. I would simply like to point out that for an extra \$500,000 we could have those transmitting stations broadcasting to the communities of northern Ontario. How much money has the government spent on educational television in southern Ontario? Only \$500,000 would ensure that countless communities all across northern Ontario had access to educational TV. I am sure that even the government will admit that this is something that everybody in this province deserves and has a right to expect.

The report, tabled recently in this House, from the Ontario Educational Communications Authority, says in the preamble:

The goal of the Ontario Educational Communications Authority is to utilize

electronic and associated media to provide educational opportunities for all the people in Ontario.

It didn't just say for southern Ontario. So let's live up to the goals as outlined for the educational television network in this province.

Hospital cutbacks, Children's Aid; the topics themselves create a great deal of difficulty for me. I just cannot conceive how a government would use things like hospitals and children for political purposes.

All I can say is that cutting back in hospitals in this province is not warranted. The government talks about cutting back on frills. Ask the hon. member for Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle) if we have any frills in the hospital line in northern Ontario. I'm sure he's not going to point to too many of them. I certainly can't point to any in my own riding.

The government is closing out the public labs. The public labs are cheaper than the privately-run labs. It's strange to note that public labs don't make a profit. I don't know whether this means that something that isn't dedicated to the profit motive is cheaper or not, but certainly that is a conclusion that could be drawn.

The private labs simply assess the government their fixed rate. There's no competition amongst them. Figures have shown that if the public health labs did the work that was done by the private labs the savings to the taxpayers would be approximately \$33 million in 1976 alone. I feel that the government has a moral obligation to keep the public health labs open. The one in North Bay provided extremely good service to northeastern Ontario and the private lab set-up the government has initiated will be a very poor substitute.

We hear an awful lot about the escalating cost in health care. I think one figure alone will put this into perspective. In 1970, the percentage of the Ministry of Health's budget in comparison with the total provincial budget was 33.6 per cent. That same percentage was down to 26.3 per cent in 1973. Where's the escalating health costs?

As to 5.5 per cent increase in the Children's Aid budget, such generosity is totally overwhelming. The government knows and has to admit that keeping the budget for the Children's Aid Society at 5.5 per cent is going to inflict many injuries upon the children of this province who need its services. In my riding alone the Children's Aid Society has said that 20 to 40 children this year will not

be able to receive the services required because of the cutbacks. Essential needs such as a group home for girls will not be able to be embarked upon. There'll be a further delay in the badly needed increase for foster parents' home rates and there may even be the possibility that the home for young boys in Haileybury will have to be closed.

Surely the government realizes that a few dollars now to provide adequate care for the children that are in need will not only be returned in financial terms, in that these people when they grow up will not need detention in training centres or perhaps even later in life in prisons, but it's also a tremendous return on that money in a human sense. Surely the government cannot turn its back on children who are in need in this province.

Another problem that arises for all people who represent natural resource industry areas is compensation. The Workmen's Compensation Board, when it was set up in 1914 under its Act, didn't progress very much from that date. I have one case I would briefly like to share with you that illustrates to me some of the severe shortcomings of the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Recently a constituent came to me because his compensation had been cut back in 1972. He'd written for two years to the board for an explanation. His compensation was for a smashed hand. Finally, a letter came back saying his compensation had been reduced because the board had inadvertently made an error in the original settlement. This man had one finger missing from his hand, so when his hand was smashed and the compensation board calculated his pension, they deducted that finger from his compensation. Do they mean to tell me that when a man smashes a hand, because he had one finger missing already, in some way he still has the use of that missing finger as far as the Compensation Board is concerned in calculating his pension for the smashed hand? I would hope not.

The only thing that can be done to provide workers with decent compensation when they're injured in the work place is to enter into an insurance programme that would guar-

antee that workers would be able to apply, much like OHIP, and collect when they were injured and unable to work on the basis of their doctor's report. This compensation programme through insurance would be covered by a premium contribution from both the employer and the employee, which then could become an item of collective bargaining. I would feel this would be a far better, far more compassionate type of compensation to provide the workers of this province.

Mr. Speaker, would you entertain a motion for adjournment?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, if you are—

Mr. Bain: I have ended at one section and I have only a few more sections to cover, but I feel it would take me about 10 more minutes. If you want to go over the adjournment period, I'm quite willing—

Mr. Nixon: We don't.

Mr. Bain: —but I am sure the members would like to adjourn on time for today, so I'll move a motion of adjournment for today and continue on Monday. Thank you.

Mr. Bain moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, on Monday next will be the wind-up of the Throne debate with the vote on the amendments and the motion in reply to the Throne Speech at about 10:30 on Monday night.

On Tuesday, we will be in legislation until 6 o'clock, and then at 8 o'clock will be the budget speech. On Wednesday, I am advised that the House will not be sitting. On Thursday, we will have legislation in the afternoon and in the evening; and on Friday of next week we also anticipate legislation.

Hon. Mr. Meen moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.



# APPENDIX (See page 967)

Answers to questions were tabled as follows:

## 7. *Mr. Ziembra*—Inquiry of the ministry:

How much did the LCBO purchase from Seagram's in each of the following years—1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974? How much did the LCBO purchase from Hiram Walker, Gooderham and Worts in each of the following years—1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974?

Answer by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations:

		Ounces
Purchases from Seagram's .....	1970	390,821,570
	1971	417,443,234
	1972	451,289,770
	1973	457,814,983
	1974	502,490,995
Purchases from Hiram Walker .....	1970	277,423,234
	1971	295,605,129
	1972	321,284,813
	1973	329,134,727
	1974	356,360,925
Purchases from Gooderham and Worts .....	1970	57,056,622
	1971	58,287,407
	1972	60,371,685
	1973	57,463,243
	1974	59,605,628

## 8. *Mr. Nixon*—Inquiry of the ministry:

What specific statutory authority permits the Minister of Health to close public hospitals which have been established, originally financed, and operated by municipalities and administered by locally elected boards?

Answer by the Minister of Health:

Subsection 2 of section 4 of the Public Hospitals Act provides that no premises shall be operated or used for the purposes of a hospital without the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Subsection 5 of the same section 4 provides that any approval given or deemed to have been given under the Public Hospitals Act in respect of a hospital may be suspended by the minister or revoked by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

In the case of each public hospital now being closed, the closure is being effected by the suspension and revocation of the prior approval.

(Concomitant with the foregoing, the public hospitals in question will, by an amendment to regulation 726 made under the Public Hospitals Act, be delisted from the schedule of public hospitals. Further, the hospitals in question will be delisted from the schedule of public hospitals in the regulation made under the Health Insurance Act, 1972. The effect of the latter is that such hospitals cannot thereafter provide insured hospital services).

## 10. *Mr. Mackenzie*—Inquiry of the ministry:

How many new contract, casual, part-time and unclassified employees have been employed at the psychiatric hospital in Hamilton since Oct. 1, 1975?

Answer by the Minister of Health:

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Ontario. Legislative Assembly

# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

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Monday, April 5, 1976

Afternoon Session

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Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe  
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

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MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

**Mr. Speaker:** Statements by the ministry.

Oral questions.

## DESIGN FOR ONTARIO LAND-USE PLAN

**Mr. Lewis:** A question, if I could, to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development: In conjunction with his major design for Ontario, which I understand is scheduled for publication later this week or early next week, why was it necessary, on the land-use question relating to the preservation of agricultural land, to hire an outside consultant from the Hedlin Menzies firm to produce a document for the government which the civil service itself was unprepared to produce?

**Hon. Mr. Irvine:** Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I don't believe that the civil service was not prepared to produce it. The report was prepared in co-operation with the civil service at all times.

**Mr. Lewis:** I see. Now that we have it pinned down, by way of supplementary, when the provincial secretary is dealing with a matter of government policy, why does he bring in someone from the Hedlin Menzies firm to help create something which is largely an extension of everything we've seen for the last several years? Why was that necessary at all?

**Hon. Mr. Irvine:** Mr. Speaker, first of all, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is talking about something which is a supposition on his part. It's not something that he has seen, as he said, largely for the last several years. It's something that is going to be absolutely different and very practical for the people of Ontario to deal with—

**Mr. Lewis:** I have a copy, and it is not different.

**Hon. Mr. Irvine:** And although he may have a copy which he thinks is something

the same as what has been happening in the past, that is not actually the case.

**Mr. Lewis:** It is a cop-out.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Supplementary: Is it accurate that the department which has been living with this problem and its solutions for a long time, prepared a couple of documents, both of which were turned down by the cabinet and, therefore, the provincial secretary got a politically acceptable one from a consultant outside?

**Hon. Mr. Irvine:** Mr. Speaker, no.

## RENT INCREASES

**Mr. Lewis:** A question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Is he able to do anything about the rent dilemma at 118 Overbrook Pl., where notice for rent increases was given to the tenants on Jan. 26, 1976, to be effective March 1, 1976, in direct contravention of the 90-day notice required in the Landlord and Tenant Act, and yet the rent officer ruled that the increase would take effect on March 1, thereby violating the Act?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, the option, of course, is open to the tenant to appeal to the Rent Review Board under those circumstances. In a situation where the rent review officer's finding is in violation of the law, I have every confidence that the board would find so.

Interjections.

**Mr. Lewis:** By way of supplementary, what can be done in this case? Is it possible, once I turn the material over to the minister, for him to encourage the tenants to make this direct appeal to the Rent Review Board, since they feel largely intimidated by the process even though they know from the rent review officials in North York, and from the landlord-tenant bureau, that there has been a violation of the law, they feel quite helpless?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, I think it's very regrettable that anyone feels intimi-

dated by the process, although I appreciate that the complexity of the process may very well intimidate people. It is certainly not intended to do that, and I would appreciate receiving the information from the Leader of the Opposition so that I can look into it. I think we must appreciate, of course, that we will not direct either a rent review officer or the board to make a decision. This is an appeal process, which I think should be completely separated from the political process—even from the administrative process in the ministry.

### PROPERTY TAX INQUIRY

**Mr. Lewis:** May I ask the Treasurer, is there any substance to the rumour about a gentleman named Willis Blair launching a major commission inquiry into use and extension of property tax?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Not to my present knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Lewis:** Is it to the Treasurer's imminent future knowledge?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, there are many things which are not to my present knowledge but which will be unfolded to all of us in the fullness of time.

**Mr. Lewis:** Tomorrow night. Well, Willis is waiting, I guess, breathlessly.

### TASK FORCE REPORT ON TRAINING SCHOOLS ACT

**Mr. Lewis:** One last question of the Minister of Community and Social Services: Now that he has received the interministerial task force report on section 8 of the Training Schools Act and the consequences which flow from it, can the minister indicate when he will be prepared to make a specific statement to the Legislature on the disposition of children and the funding arrangements?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, with respect, the hon. Leader of the Opposition's intelligence may not be entirely accurate, in that I expect the interministerial study to be coming forward for recommendation through the policy field and then it will go on from there, presumably, to the cabinet.

**Mr. Lewis:** What is the timetable on that, may I ask?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** I've been pressing very vigorously for some time to expedite that, and I'm hopeful that it will be soon.

### FANCY LIQUOR BOTTLES

**Mr. S. Smith:** A question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Are we to understand by the introduction of fancy new liquor bottles by the LCBO that its function has been altered from a liquor supply house to a promoter of increased liquor consumption? I refer to the fancy bottles the LCBO is very keen about now.

**Mr. Sargent:** It's the same old stuff.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, I don't know what assumption the hon. member is making. The LCBO has been carrying liquor in fancy bottles for many many years and there is no special promotion on that kind of container.

**Mr. Roy:** That's not what they say.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** I simply don't understand the question. The LCBO has been doing this for years and simply announced it is going to continue to do it.

**Mrs. Campbell:** That's not what they say.

**Mr. S. Smith:** As a supplementary, is the minister able to explain then the point of view taken by the LCBO that the new bottle marketing plan is one of their new directions and is expected to bring in an extra million dollars to the LCBO through sale of these fancy bottles? Can the minister explain why they should put forward that point of view?

**Mr. Nixon:** How about that?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, first of all, the hon. member should understand that the minister who reports to this Legislature for the LCBO does not direct the LCBO. I would be glad to get an explanation, if one is really required.

**Mr. Peterson:** Like everything else.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Could the minister tell us whether he has been in consultation with the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) concerning that latter minister's point of view about moving to fancy attractive bottles of this kind, rather than to standardized refillable bottles?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, I understand the Minister of the Environment would object if the fancy bottles were put out for collection, but, of course, the purpose of the fancy bottles is that they remain in the person's home as an object of decoration in the home.



**Mr. Peterson:** You wouldn't have room in your house.

**Mr. Reid:** You must have run that through your shredder.

**Mr. Lewis:** If you had learned French, there is an expression for that.

#### LAB PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAMME

**Mr. S. Smith:** A question of the acting Minister of Health: Would the minister consider making the results of the laboratory proficiency testing programme administered by the OMA available to the doctors using these labs, as opposed to simply keeping them as something known to the labs and to the government and to the OMA?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, most of the physicians who use these labs are aware of the fact that the lab has been accredited. They may not be aware of the fact that the lab has not been accredited, and I would seriously consider that proposal.

**Mr. S. Smith:** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps, in fact, I have received a positive reply but I'm afraid I didn't understand it. Could the minister please explain simply whether the results of the laboratory proficiency testing programme that goes on, that is a regular programme, would regularly be made available to the doctors using these labs? It's a pretty straightforward question, I thought.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, the accreditation programme provides the laboratory with a certificate which is usually displayed within the laboratory. Therefore, the doctors who use the laboratories know whether, in fact, the laboratory has been accredited or not. They might not be aware as far as specific directions regarding upgrading certain tests are concerned, and they lose their licence if, in fact, they do not manage to keep abreast of the kinds of upgrading which has been suggested to them. If there was any merit in the thought of allowing physicians to know that laboratories need to be upgraded in certain specific tests, I would seriously consider that problem.

[2:15]

#### FLOOD DAMAGE

**Mr. Rollins:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the serious flooding in Hastings county, in Thurlow township and other municipalities south

of Highway 7, I would like to ask the provincial Treasurer what funds will be available for those who are affected by water damage and property loss in this area? There is a high water level this year. What steps can be taken in this area, and also in the area of the dam at Marmora where there has been considerable expense with sandbagging and other items? ,

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, I think there are perhaps two parts to the question. First of all, with respect to the damage which occurred, the Ministry of Natural Resources is the lead ministry in the case of flooding such as this. I am informed that they are assessing the situation to see what help can be provided and what further help may be needed.

In terms of provincial assistance, the first step would be to declare this a disaster area, and I understand that MNR and other ministries are assessing those facts to see what dollar damage there is. There is to be a meeting, as I understand it, on Friday of this week of the conservation authority. Officials from various ministries will be there and any decision on the part of the province will be taken after that meeting.

**Mr. Rollins:** Supplementary: With reference to the final decision which will be made after the meeting that has been arranged by the Moira Conservation Authority in this area on Friday, this will also pertain to a similar situation as it affects Marmora?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. O'Neil:** A supplementary: I would ask if the Treasurer would keep my office informed as to the results of this meeting, as it affects part of my riding?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, any information requested by any hon. member will, of course, be supplied.

#### POLICE COMMISSIONS

**Mr. Germa:** A question of the Solicitor General, Mr. Speaker: Now that the feds have passed legislation which precludes county and district court judges from receiving extra remuneration, will that not encourage the Solicitor General now to amend the Police Act to remove judges from the police commissions of Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, yes, it is being considered by the cabinet as to whether or not an amendment will be necessary. I

personally am hoping that it will still be possible that some police commissions will retain the services of judges, but in view of the federal action it is quite possible that some judges will not want to act. In which case, I think it will be necessary to amend the Police Act, because we might be operating with only two commissioners in places where they call for three.

**Mr. Germa:** Supplementary: Do I take it that the minister favours retaining judges on police commissions in Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, I have expressed the personal view that I do favour retaining county court judges on police commissions.

**Mr. Reid:** Supplementary: How can the minister, especially having a legal background, square the conflict of interest—which is real in some cases, but certainly there—of the judge sitting as a judge judging the actions of police officers and then also being on a police commission? How does he square that?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, there is a great deal of difficulty in squaring a lot of relations, I suppose, in conflict-of-interest matters. But it seems to me that the judges of this province probably have fewer conflicts of interest and know how to deal with conflicts of interest better than many other people do. The suggestion has been made that municipal politicians should take the place of some of the county court judges. I don't know of any group that perhaps has more conflicts of interest than politicians.

**Mr. Reid:** Well, we are not dealing with that.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Speak for yourself.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** We all have to deal with these conflicts of interests. There are very many other virtues that judges bring to police commissions. I think it is reasonable that those virtues should outweigh some of the objections that my friend has to the judges.

#### ICE STORM DAMAGE

**Mr. Spence:** I have a question for the provincial Treasurer. Has the minister made any decision on the request of some towns and villages that they be designated as disaster areas to receive assistance to restore hydro, after the severe ice storm on March 2 which caused a tremendous amount of damage to those villages and towns? These municipali-

ties feel they must have some financial assistance or else it will be a hardship on them for a year or two.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, an interdepartmental committee was formed to assess the whole situation, I think with representatives from Ontario Hydro, the Minister of Energy, my own ministry, and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Because this was a storm which did not fall into any category which heretofore we had contemplated, the Solicitor General's is therefore the lead ministry. There is a committee of officials examining what the damages were and the costs and the implications. They will be reporting in due course to cabinet through the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth).

#### WINDSOR TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr. Bounsall:** Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Education: Does the minister agree with the Premier's (Mr. Davis) statement of last week to the effect that the Windsor Board of Education lockout of the teachers and students should be ended shortly by action of this House? I ask this question because it has led, in my opinion, to a slow-down in negotiations between that point and now. Will the minister clarify what his intentions are with respect to legislation, if at all, with respect to the Windsor situation?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** First of all, Mr. Speaker, of course I agree with what the Premier has said. I think any thinking person would realize that an area where there was a 16-day strike in 1973, a 28-school-day strike in 1974-1975, and the thought of another strike that might go on 10, 20, 30 or 40 days affecting students who were affected by the other three strikes, has got to be considered in a different light from any of the other stoppages that we've had in this province. So therefore, I think the Premier very rightly expressed real concern at the time about a situation.

**Mr. Roy:** A real insight.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** I would have to disagree with my friend's statement that the statements made here last week, which I learned about in other areas, have impeded negotiations. I think the negotiations—

**An hon. member:** There should be a contract—



**Mr. Lewis:** You continue to support the Premier, do you?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** I continue to support the Premier, of course—

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** As does the Leader of the Opposition.

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** —as does the Leader of the Opposition, and I hope that the Premier will continue to support me.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Well, that is nice.

**Mr. Lewis:** That was incestuous, that was.

**Mr. Foulds:** As the minister and the Premier have both admitted the situation in Windsor is quantitatively and qualitatively different from the other situations we have faced, does it mean that if the government is forced to legislate it will bring in more innovative legislation than it has to end the previous disputes?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't want to speculate on what type of legislation might be needed in this particular situation, if such is in fact needed. I think I've said many times in this House and will continue to say it, negotiated settlements are the best kind of settlements. I'm now making myself again familiar with what's going on in Windsor. The Education Relations Commission will be doing likewise. We're going to be seeing what innovative ways and means can be brought to bear to try to get a settlement in that particular area.

I might just say, for the member's information, the Education Relations Commission is meeting at 8 o'clock tomorrow evening in Central Algoma to listen to presentations from both parties, particularly as to whether the pupils' programmes are in jeopardy in that particular area, and at 9:30 on Wednesday morning in Sault Ste. Marie, to listen to presentations from both the board and the teachers in those particular areas.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Is the Education Relations Commission attempting to meet with both sides in the Windsor situation now?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** Mr. Speaker, they will be deciding about that either today or tomorrow.

#### FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAMME

**Mr. Roy:** Mr. Speaker, a question of the same minister, the Minister of Education: In view of the overwhelming success of the French immersion programme for English-

speaking students in Ottawa, and in the view of the fact that this programme is now in jeopardy because of a lack of funds from the province and the federal government, what is the minister doing to make sure that this programme continues and, in fact, is extended across the province?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** First of all, let me correct one wrong assumption that the hon. member has made. There's never been any definitive answer given to the four boards in the National Capital area that there would be no particular extra funds coming from this government toward those programmes. I met with the boards on Feb. 23 and they made a presentation to me in which they said they would need roughly \$3 million additional to continue on programmes which were begun with federal money for two years, then half federal and half our money in the last year. At that time, I said we would look at that and I asked our regional director to assess whether the \$3 million was, in fact, an accurate figure. This he has been doing, his reports are coming forward and we will be back to those boards probably next week. That's exactly what the situation is now.

I must say that also, at the same time, I gave them a letter from Mr. Faulkner which indicated that the federal government would not be making any more special grants, as it had been for the three years previous.

**Mr. Roy:** If I may ask a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, in view of the Spicer report just recently, and of the fact that it is hoped emphasis will be put more on education of students than senior civil servants, and in view of the fact that the federal government seems to be suggesting there is no question about the success of the Ottawa programme and that the funds to the province are contingent on the extension of the programme not only for Ottawa but right across the province, what is the minister doing to extend this programme, not only from the Ottawa experiment but to other areas in the province?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** Mr. Speaker, we have had no indication from the federal government that it was making available extra funds to us under the bilingualism programme for extension of programmes in this province. They've indicated that they do make available funds now and that they feel they're probably adequate for the extra costs necessitated because of bilingual programmes. I haven't seen or heard since the—

**Mr. Roy:** You should get in touch with Faulkner.

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** As a matter of fact, I talked on the phone with Mr. Faulkner this morning and we intend to meet in the very near future.

I just wanted to make it clear, though, that I've heard it said, and read a couple of times in the paper in the last few days, that federal money was there if we would extend our programmes, and I say that is not so.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Supplementary: Is the minister satisfied that the present federal funding for limited programmes of French education in Ontario schools is adequate for the kind of immersion which is clearly proving successful in helping kids to become totally bilingual?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** I think my friend should perhaps wait until the research from the Ottawa programmes is presented at a research colloquium that's going to be held on April 26 in Ottawa, to see whether in fact the oft-held notion that immersion programmes actually are very costly things is actually a true one. I'm not sure that after one pays the startup costs, the actual cost of immersion programmes—taking away the cost needed to prepare curriculum material, which I think we have to face and we are facing—are indeed that much greater, and I see boards like the Scarborough board moving from two schools to three schools with immersion programmes without any particular special financial incentives provided.

**Mr. Cassidy:** What steps is the minister prepared to take in order to ensure, if the points he makes are correct, an adequate supply of qualified teachers? That's where the bottlenecks are going to arise if immersion is to be offered across the province.

[2:30]

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** We are prepared to take the very necessary steps in this regard. We agree that's where the bottlenecks are, and part of our programme was outlined in the Gillin report and part of our thrust now has to be in that particular area. A lot of the money that is needed will have to be spent there, not necessarily on increased grants to school boards but on programmes to get the teachers available so that they can offer the programmes in the boards.

#### POLICE CHASES

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, on Friday last, the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh)

asked me if I would consider tabling a report which I received from the OPP in connection with the Acton fatalities and I am pleased to do that now. It is dated March 9, 1976, and is the report to me from the Ontario Provincial Police of that accident together with a copy of the statement made by the officer immediately after the accident and the diagram involved.

#### EFFECT OF FLUORESCENT LIGHT ON FOOD

**Mr. Burr:** A question of the acting Minister of Health: How has the ministry reacted to the three-year study at the University of Guelph revealing that fluorescent lighting has a harmful effect on foods displayed in stores—food such as milk and butter—destroying vitamins in as little as three hours?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I would think that question would more properly be directed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. However, we are aware of that report and I am aware that stores—the large stores—have been made aware of this potential problem. I am not sure what the retailers are doing about it at the moment.

**Mr. Burr:** A supplementary: Inasmuch as I asked the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) the same question three weeks ago and he referred me to the Minister of Health and some other ministers unnamed, I think it is about time the government got busy on this problem.

#### STUDENT SEMINARS

**Mr. Sweeney:** Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Labour: Based upon predictions coming from the government's own youth secretariat that there will be up to 150,000 students this summer unable to get employment, will the ministry be starting any special crash programmes to assist them this summer?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member is aware of the fact that Experience '76 has established a larger number of job opportunities for the students in this province than we had originally planned to do. We have no further plans right at this time. However, the youth secretariat has been very diligent in its exploration of the problem and in its advertisement of the opportunities for young people. I must say that the applications have been coming in very rapidly.

**An hon. member:** Where are the jobs?



**Hon. B. Stephenson:** In all the ministries.

**An hon. member:** You are sidetracking.

**Mr. Sweeney:** Would the minister be prepared to speak to her colleague from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation and perhaps suggest that some large sums of unspent money might be used to set up special programmes in culture and recreation as crash programmes for this summer?

**Mr. Ruston:** From Wintario.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I think the member has done that most effectively, sir.

**Mr. Warner:** In all these deliberations, is the Minister of Labour aware that there likely will be at least 120,000 students without work this summer?

Interjections.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, the preceding speaker had a larger figure than that one; however, I am not sure that either of them is correct.

**An hon. member:** It's misleading, that's what it is. No OFY programmes.

#### NEWMARKET COURTHOUSE

**Mr. Hodgson:** I don't know whether or not the Attorney General is aware—I am sure he is aware of the bad condition of the courthouse in Newmarket—that on Friday of last week due to that poor condition of the building and due to the building having—

**Mrs. Campbell:** Question?

**Mr. Hodgson:** —no handrails, Judge Munroe fell down and was seriously hurt. Judge Munroe comes from Lindsay, Ont.

**An hon. member:** This is a speech.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question?

**Mr. Hodgson:** The question I would like to ask the—

**Mr. Lewis:** Are you saying if he hadn't come from Lindsay he wouldn't have fallen?

**Mr. Hodgson:** Well, you may think it is funny but it is not funny when you have a gentleman who is administering justice and he falls down.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Hodgson:** If you think that is a joke, you are not fit to sit in this chamber.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Hodgson:** Can the Attorney General tell me where are the plans at the present time for the new courthouse? Have they gone to the architects or the Minister of Government Services (Mrs. Scrivener), or are they in the minister's department?

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of this misfortune in relation to the judge. I do recognize the fact that there is a new courthouse required in that area. The plans have been prepared and I hope it's a matter that we will be able to proceed with in the near future, but—

**Mr. MacDonald:** Which year?

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** As to which year, I am not prepared to give a specific answer at this time, but I can say that the matter of the courthouse in Newmarket is receiving the highest of priorities in so far as the Ministry of the Attorney General is concerned.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** By way of supplementary: Would the Attorney General consider handrails as a stop-gap measure?

#### SHORTAGE OF SEALING LIDS

**Mr. Swart:** A question, Mr. Speaker, of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Is he aware of the projected shortage of sealer lids for home canning this year and what is he doing to prevent that shortage?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is suggesting the government get into the production of sealing equipment for home canning, I would say we are doing nothing along that line.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** The same situation arose last year and we advised all home canners to try to make arrangements with their hardware stores and their suppliers for early supplies. That's all we can do. We are not going to go into the manufacture of this product.

**Mr. Swart:** In view of the fact that the minister has admitted there is apparently going to be a shortage, is he prepared to give any direction so that there is at least a fair

supply made for home canning? What steps will he take to ensure that there isn't the price ripoff that took place in previous years?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, there is a limit to government intervention in the marketplace and that's it.

Interjections.

**An hon. member:** Let them suffer.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

### INSURANCE AGAINST RADIATION

**Mr. Sargent:** A question of the Minister of Energy: Is he aware of the fact that no insurance company in North America or in Canada will give one cent of insurance against nuclear power radiation and, further, that the State of California now is voting on a plebiscite regarding any future development of nuclear power plants? Can the minister tell me why Ontario citizens can't have the same right to vote against a \$30-billion project in nuclear power in this province?

**An hon. member:** We're waiting for the budget.

**Mr. Yakabuski:** Do you want to take it away, Eddie?

**Mr. Sargent:** Yes, I do.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact the Ontario voters have had three such occasions on which to vote against nuclear power—in 1967, 1971 and 1975—and they returned the party which put it in.

Interjections.

**Mr. Moffatt:** This may be the last time you have the chance.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I am aware, Mr. Speaker, of the plebiscite which is being held in the State of California on June 5. We are all, of course, interested in how that will turn out. I was in California about a month ago on a holiday and viewed for myself some of the material which is being distributed—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We are trying to hear the answers too.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Does somebody else want to say it instead?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. minister will continue, please.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** How about if we put it on the ballot with seatbelts?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** As for the question of insurance, I would think that should be more properly put to my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), as it relates to the insurance industry.

**Mr. Sargent:** Supplementary: Do I understand the minister to say that we have had plebiscites on nuclear power for the people of Ontario directly?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, what I was referring to is the fact that there have been three general elections in this province since the basic decision was taken, and the people of Ontario had the opportunity to hear the comments of the member's party—I am not sure where his party stands on this or any energy-related issue, notwithstanding memos that have gone to his leader on this question—and they have shown their decision.

**Mr. Lewis:** That's seatbelts and power plants.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** What else do you want on the ballot?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

### INTERFLOW SYSTEMS

**Mr. Davison:** Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of the Environment: Would the minister table in the House the results of the investigation that his ministry's officials conducted into Interflow Systems of Hamilton as a result of a citizen's complaint in December, 1975; particularly those sections dealing with the company's disposal of mercaptan, so we can understand why charges were not laid against the company for acting in such a dangerous and irresponsible fashion?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to table or give the hon. member any information or correspondence dealing with Interflow and that particular matter.

### SECURITY AT DON JAIL

**Mr. Stong:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Correctional Services. What, if any, instruction has his ministry given surrounding the security at the Don Jail wherein on this weekend there was a jail break from the exercise yard where prisoners formed a human pyramid and hoisted a prisoner over the walls to a successful escape?



**Hon. J. R. Smith:** Mr. Speaker, I have asked for a full report on this. My initial understanding is there were 80 inmates in the exercise yard and two correctional officers and there were additional correctional officers on the other side of the wall; they were equipped with walkie-talkies and they were able to alert them immediately when the pyramid was discovered and the man was over the wall. In fact, when the inmate who made the break found he was being chased by the police—

**Mr. Reid:** Transfer the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman).

**Mr. Breithaupt:** He is in charge of pyramid schemes, isn't he?

**Hon. J. R. Smith:** —he turned around and turned himself over to one of the correctional officers in pursuit.

**Mr. Cassidy:** After he swam the Don River.

Interjections.

#### COST OF SABBATICALS

**Mr. Yakabuski:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question. I guess it could be directed to either the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) or the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Parrott), or both.

**Mr. Martel:** Take your pick.

**Mr. Yakabuski:** I, and I'm sure, a great number of the taxpayers of this province would be—

**Mr. S. Smith:** Question. Question.

**Mr. Reid:** Speech. Speech.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please, we're wasting time.

**Mr. Yakabuski:** —anxious to know what sabbaticals are costing the taxpayers of the Province of Ontario. This being an era of restraint, when are we going to end the sabbatical ripoff?

**Mr. Sweeney:** Better have a conference.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does one of the ministers wish to answer that?

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We're wasting valuable time. Does one of the hon. ministers wish to answer that?

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Wentworth.

**Mr. Deans:** Is the minister going to answer?

**An hon. member:** Quit while you're ahead, Harry.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Sabbaticals are for those who use their brains.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Wentworth with a question.

**Mr. Deans:** Is the minister going to answer or not? He can answer if he wants.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Your cabinet bows out.

#### PROTECTION FOR CONDOMINIUM BUYERS

**Mr. Deans:** I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Can the minister indicate what steps he's prepared to take now, given that we don't yet have home warranties, to protect purchasers of condominiums against delays in registration; against rent continuing to be charged far beyond the period where the registration ought to have taken place; against workmanship that is downright shoddy; and against people like Settlement Corp., who made it clear in their advertising that the people who purchased would be eligible for the government's \$1,500 homeowner grant but who are now in doubt as to whether or not they will be because they didn't complete the project on time?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, first of all, the amendments which were brought in to the Condominium Act last year in our view, and I think in the view of most of the members of the House, achieved most of the objectives which the hon. member is questioning.

As far as the misrepresentation concerning home grants is concerned, a buyer of a condominium has protection under the Business Practices Act and he can actually rescind the contract, provided, of course, there has been misrepresentation. It takes more than an allegation to prove it.

Certainly as far as speedy registrations are concerned, the amendments to the Act last year should have achieved that. If there are any specific cases where there appears to be deliberate delay on the part of the original developer, I would be pleased to know of

them because our property rights division would look into it.

[2:45]

**Mr. Deans:** Does the minister have within his attention the situation which currently exists in Hamilton with regard to the Settlement Corp. development on Upper Ottawa St., whereby those people were assured in the advertising they would qualify for the home owner grant and where there are now some serious questions and reservations as to whether or not they will, as a result of the company involved not having completed the business it had to complete in time to allow them to qualify?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** To the best of my recollection, I don't know if that has come to my personal attention. There have been a number of cases involving condominium purchases where the homeowner's grant was not paid because of some confusion as to the terms. If there is any confusion as to the terms of eligibility for that grant, those questions should be directed to my colleague, the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen), who administered the payment of the grant.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are several people wishing to ask questions along here. I forget who was first. I think it was the member for Windsor-Walkerville.

**Mr. B. Newman:** I will yield to my leader, Mr. Speaker.

### SYNCRUDE PROJECT

**Mr. S. Smith:** Now that the Minister of Energy is in the House, I have a question to ask him. Could the minister explain to us some of the utterings by the Energy Minister of Alberta who, with regard to Syncrude and the Alberta-Ontario negotiations, has said that Ontario was about to reach agreement and then changed its mind and backed off and who has said that, long before they will risk the Syncrude plan, they will let Ontario withdraw? Can the minister explain whether Ontario is thinking of withdrawing from Syncrude; and could he explain why the Alberta Energy Minister should have made comments of this kind? What is the state of these negotiations?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I don't know the date of those remarks. Could the hon. member say what year those remarks were made?

**Mr. S. Smith:** It was about three weeks to a month ago.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** If the hon. member had been in the House last week, he would know that I met with the Minister of Energy of Alberta, the Minister of Energy of Canada, and representatives of the private sector last week—well there is Hansard—and all outstanding issues were put aside.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Supplementary: But has it been settled? Forgive me if I missed the minister's original remarks but this is quite important. Did he in fact settle with Alberta on the rate of return to the Alberta Energy Co. which was the problem at the time and what is that rate that he has settled at?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, the final documents have yet to be signed, so I would like to take that last part as notice.

**Mr. Peterson:** A surprise on signing day or what?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I indicated in the House some time ago that Ontario was not considering withdrawing. I thought that must have been an old report. The member has confirmed that in fact it is, and since then we have met.

**Mr. Reid:** Will the minister table the documents when they are signed?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** When they are signed, I will take that as notice.

### COST OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

**Ms. Bryden:** I have a question of the Premier. Will the Premier obtain for us the figure on the cost to the taxpayers of the party which was given for the consular corps at the Art Gallery of Ontario in February; and does he think that perhaps this kind of public entertainment should be eliminated in a period of restraint when there is not enough money for a cost-of-living escalation for social allowance people?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** I would be quite delighted to get that figure for the hon. member.

### MOSQUITO CONTROL

**Mr. Mancini:** I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact that it has been mentioned there will be chemical spraying against encephalitis, and in view of the fact that the bee-keeping industry of Essex county has suffered thousands of dollars of damage due to spraying last year,



what is the ministry going to do to prevent more of this; and what is the ministry going to do about damages suffered last year?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** The hon. member knows a number of municipalities will be taking part in a spraying programme this year. The pesticide advisory council of my ministry attempts to advise local authorities how to conduct the spraying operation as safely as possible. Along with the Ministry of Health, we make recommendations as to the type of pesticides we feel are safe and effective. So, hopefully, the damage that occurred in the hon. member's area last year won't be repeated this year.

As far as last year is concerned, this was a municipal undertaking. We did not have the same type of surveillance, shall we say, in control over the municipality as will exist in this year's programme. We advise as to the type of pesticide but not as to the method of application and how to apply it, whether by aircraft or otherwise. I don't feel there is any obligation on the part of the province to reimburse those people who suffered damages. I think they should look to the municipality.

**Mr. Speaker:** The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, there were meetings of the ministers of finance on Thursday and Friday of last week, and I thought I would table today the three statements which I made at the conference. I am also tabling two additional documents tabled at that meeting; one is a review of financing issues of the Canada Pension Plan, while the other one examines the federal costing of a recent guaranteed income proposal. The latter study shows the huge cost of proceeding with the kind of support and supplementation additions being considered by the federal government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motions.

**Hon. Mr. Welch** moved that the House would not sit on Wednesday, April 7, but will sit on Wednesday, April 14; and when the House adjourns on Wednesday, April 14, it will stand adjourned until Tuesday, April 20.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Speaker:** Introduction of bills.

## PUBLIC UTILITIES AMENDMENT ACT

**Hon. Mr. McKeough** moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Public Utilities Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this amendment is to repeal section 34 of the Public Utilities Act, which now provides for debentures issued on behalf of public utilities to be secured by the utility works and the land on which they are situated. Since debentures issued by municipalities are not secured on any specific asset, the repeal of section 34 brings the Act into conformity with this fact.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

**Clerk of the House:** The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

## THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

**Mr. Speaker:** When we rose last, I believe the hon. member for Timiskaming was making some remarks.

**Mr. Bain:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to conclude by briefly discussing two final items that are of concern to the people in my riding—OHIP charges as made by some doctors and the growing power of multi-national corporations.

Recently, a young boy was injured while involved in sports activities in the riding away from his home. This was very early in the morning and he was rushed to the hospital, where he had to wait a considerable length of time. The nurse in charge phoned the doctor on duty. The doctor wouldn't come to the hospital but prescribed two pain pills. These were taken by the boy. He got more than a little restive, so finally he left the hospital.

Several days passed and the family received a bill for \$17 from that doctor. The mother, of course, was very concerned about this and contacted the hospital, as the hospital was not in her home town, and she wanted to know exactly what was going on.

A spokesman for the hospital told her: "Why should you care? You're not paying for

it; it's OHIP. Just give us your OHIP number." Needless to say, the mother refused to do this.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are far too many loud, private conversations going on and it's not fair to the hon. member who has the floor. Would you please carry them on at a very low level or outside someplace? Thank you very much.

**Mr. Bain:** Especially the members from the government side Mr. Speaker, for I'm sure they'll want to follow some of my suggestions in fixing up OHIP.

The mother, as I mentioned, wrote the doctor in question for clarification of why the family would have been charged \$17 for the doctor merely prescribing two pain pills over the phone. The letter that came back stated that the charge was now \$5.

This whole experience indicates that in many cases charges are made by doctors when people have no idea what they are for. They don't even know they've ever been made because the hospital or the doctor has the OHIP number on file. The only reason this case was ever brought to anyone's attention was that the family in question did not normally go to this hospital and the hospital did not have their OHIP number.

I strongly urge the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) to investigate a system—perhaps it could be a credit card system similar to that used by gas companies—whereby the patient would have an accurate record of the charges that were made by the doctor in this patient's name. I feel this would eliminate the abuse that exists and, far more important, it would also clear the names of many doctors who do not indulge in this sort of shady practice. The vast majority of doctors do not do this and their reputations are being unduly blemished by those doctors who do indulge in this type of a practice.

Another item that is of concern to me and also to working people in Timiskaming and all across this province is a reference that was made in the Throne Speech to the need to eliminate industrial strikes from the private sector. I feel that this can only be a method that would further take away the rights of collective bargaining. These rights are badly enough mutilated in this province already. They can't afford to be curtailed any more.

The problem that exists in collective bargaining and in inflation is actually the multinational corporation. In the 18 months up to last August, the nickel corporations, Inco, Sherritt Gordon, Falconbridge, etc., raised the

price of nickel five times for a total increase in that period of 44 per cent. In the two years 1973 and 1974, the average weekly wages and salaries paid in Canada rose by 21.8 per cent and the cost of living by 22.7 per cent.

You'll notice, Mr. Speaker, that the rise in the cost of living in that time period was greater than the increase in wages. So what has happened with all these big wage settlements that the working man is supposed to have been extracting? How come inflation has been rising even faster than wage settlements? What about Inco and Falconbridge and all the rest who raised nickel prices 44 per cent in 18 months? What action is the government going to take to curb their avarice for profit? It's obvious that the real power isn't in the hands of the working people, whether they be unionized or non-unionized.

**Mr. Martel:** They walk across the water.

**Mr. Bain:** We read about strikes all the time in the newspaper, but they are always strikes by working men and women. We never read about strikes by capital and corporations. What about the potash corporations which have been on strike against the people of Saskatchewan? They've been refusing to report financial data that is required under Saskatchewan law. They fail to pay royalties and taxes required by law and they refuse to expand the industry so that the province's potash production can grow to meet world demands.

[3:00]

**Mr. Martel:** They won't have to worry about it much longer.

**Mr. Bain:** We never hear any screaming headlines against the corporations when they hold people and whole provinces for ransom. It's very fortunate that in this country we have one government that's willing to stand up to the corporations—

**Mr. Nixon:** That's the government of Canada.

**Mr. Bain:** I hope this government will pursue some of the policies enunciated by the Saskatchewan government and get into natural resource industries.

**Mr. Martel:** They'll give another tax concession.

**Mr. Bain:** The least the government can do is extract a decent tax from them.



**Mr. Martel:** Oh God, heaven forbid, no! Do you want to bankrupt them?

**Mr. Bain:** Just as Saskatchewan has, it's time the government of Ontario stood up to Inco. Does the government think it could meet that challenge?

**Mr. Martel:** No way.

**Mr. Bain:** It's time the government, on behalf of the people of this province, also stood up to Falconbridge and to United Asbestos.

I believe that the people of Timiskaming and of this province have basic inalienable rights that this government is thwarting. This government has forgotten about people. This government has forgotten that the most important thing in our society is the needs of people. The desire of a mill worker at United Asbestos to grow old and enjoy his grandchildren. The hope of a young farm family that they'll be able to stay on the farm. The legitimate wish of the people of Timagami and area that they be able to enjoy the normal rhythm of growth experienced by other communities. The wish of a rural family to have a telephone at a price they can afford. The prayer of a young northern Ontario mother who would like to be able to have ETV so there will be suitable alternatives for her children to view—

**Mr. Martel:** Ask Bob Welch about that.

**Mr. Bain:** The young girl with emotional problems who pleads for a Children's Aid group home so that she will not be sent to a training school or a reform school. The injured worker who asks for proper compensation so that he can support his family with dignity.

The people of Timiskaming and of this province demand justice. What will the answer of this government be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Huron-Bruce.

**Mr. Martel:** He's speaking from the second row.

**Mr. Gaunt:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to pay tribute to you, sir, for the job which you do in this chamber on behalf of us all. It's not an easy or enviable job, but I say to you, sir, that given the make-up of the House, I think we all agree that you do a very commendable job.

At the same time, I want to pay tribute to the Deputy Speaker and to offer my congratulations to him on his appointment. He certainly has a faculty of getting along and pursuing the matters at hand so that he can call up the co-operation of all of the members in the House to get the job done; and I'm sure that we're all very grateful for that.

I want to talk about a number of things today but I want, first of all, to comment on the government's restraint programme. The whole emphasis in the Throne Speech was on the matter of restraint. Restraint is the new byword of the government. It's rather amusing, and sometimes a little sad, that the government hasn't come to recognize the word long before now, because the fact of the matter is that only after the horses get out of the barn and have almost gone out of sight down the road—

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** You are the fellows who opened the door.

**Mr. Gaunt:** —does the government realize that, somewhere along the line, it has got to embrace restraint. So here we are, entering into a phase on behalf of the provincial government where restraint is the byword in the application of all government programmes.

It's interesting to note that in this period of restraint the government doesn't hesitate to save money on the one hand and pour it out the pipe on the other. I draw to your attention, sir, a number of things that have been drawn to my attention from time to time in this regard. I have to mention—it's been mentioned before—the \$67,000 renovation for the Lieutenant Governor's suite; the \$500,000 undertaken to be spent by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education to see whether high school students can read and write when they graduate; and the fact that while the government closed down the public health laboratory in Kenora to save \$12,700 it had no qualms about spending \$9,500 to provide a car for the Deputy Minister of Health.

I noticed also in the paper a while ago that the Ministry of Natural Resources flew 300 Canada geese down to Tennessee, all in the period of restraint. Not that I have anything against Canada geese but I think surely there are other priorities—

**Mr. Ruston:** They have wings of their own. They went down on a wing and a prayer.

**Mr. Gaunt:** —in terms of government spending rather than doing that.

I presume that restraint has hit the Ministry of Agriculture and Food as well and while I have mentioned the raspberry case a number of times in this House I am going to mention it again. It was my view that the raspberry buyers' free programme was being cut off as a vindictive measure on the part of the government simply because it lost a court case to the extent of having to pay something just over \$100,000 to a farmer who got the wrong plants from the ministry and who discovered some years later that he couldn't sell the wrong variety which he had been given.

That resulted in a court case in which he collected over \$100,000, and shortly after that was resolved the government decided that it would simply phase out the programme. I saw that as a vindictive act on the part of the government. I just thought it was a sore loser.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) tells me that is not the case but that there were other factors involved, and I am prepared to take his word on that. The only thing I draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that this was a very important programme and one which served a very real need of the farmers who grow strawberry and raspberry plants in this province—indeed, in this country.

I draw to your attention also the fact that the Ontario Food and Vegetable Growers' annual meeting passed resolutions asking that since no source of virus indexed to raspberry plants in Ontario is available the government have the raspberry programme reinstated immediately, and that the strawberry certification programme be continued.

As I understand it, both are going to be phased out and there are some plants going to the organization which will distribute them to the farmers. I think that is a far cry from what was in effect previously and I hope the ministry reconsiders.

There has been a lot said about hospital closings and what effect they have had on the communities involved. I don't want to repeat that but I just want to make a few comments with respect to the Clinton Hospital by way of reinforcement of what has already been said.

The fact is Clinton was a very efficient hospital—perhaps the most efficient hospital in the county of Huron. It did more operating in its facility than any other single hospital in the county. Its x-ray equipment was the most modern and efficient, outside of the largest city hospital. It had heart machines; it had a dialysis unit; it was a good

operation, in short. That's the one the ministry decided it was going to close down.

I know that the per diem rate is not a true indicator of the cost of operating a hospital because of the way in which these things are financed on a global budget basis, but nonetheless I think there has to be some correlation between the establishment of the per diem rate and the actual operating cost of that hospital, given the fact that it's not really the bed that's the costly thing, it's the support services within that hospital that are the costly items.

Nonetheless, I draw to your attention and to the attention of the House, Mr. Speaker, that the average cost per patient stay in some of the larger hospitals—now this is an average of the 400 to 600 bed hospitals in the province—is \$1,220.59. In Wingham Hospital, which is a 100-bed hospital, the average cost of patient stay is \$780, but in Clinton it's \$547. In my view, any way one cuts that, it means that the average cost of treating a patient in Clinton Hospital is much less than the average—even the average of the smaller hospitals, not to mention the large hospitals.

It seems to me that there are other alternatives to what the ministry has proposed. I think people would accept the cutbacks. People accept the fact that restraint is necessary. Notwithstanding what I said at the beginning of my speech with respect to the waste the government was engaging in even in a period of restraint, which in my view destroys to a great extent the credibility of the government's restraint programme, I think most people could accept the fact that there have to be cutbacks—cutbacks in a number of areas including hospital beds. In short, cutbacks, yes, but closure never, and I think that pretty well sums up the feeling of people across the province who have been affected by hospital closings.

Let me move on to a matter having to do with the Workmen's Compensation Board. I spoke to the minister back in the fall about this matter and I want to put some of these comments on the record, in connection with the workmen's compensation appeal system, how it's working, what the problems are as I see them and what I think can be done to improve the situation. I won't take the time of the House to review all of the background leading up to the creation of the current appeal system other than to say that it did have a somewhat difficult birth, commencing with the select committee of the House which investigated the workings of the Workmen's Compensation Board three years ago.



The committee found there were certain deficiencies in the operation of the board but recommended that a consulting firm be hired to make specific recommendations as to how the operation could be improved. A consulting firm was engaged, namely P. S. Ross and Co., which interestingly enough seems to specialize in clearing up messes that the Tory government finds itself in from time to time. Needless to say, they have been gainfully employed for some while.

Diverting for a moment to the select committee of the House, it was acknowledged by all that one of the chief complaints of the injured workmen was that it took so long to get a final decision from the Workmen's Compensation Board. In those days, this was acknowledged as a problem which involved five or six or maybe even eight weeks from the time a file left the claims department until a decision of the board might be rendered for or against the workman. This wasn't good enough and consequently one of the main requirements of the task force and its experts, P. S. Ross and Co., was to devise a system whereby a workman could get a final answer on a much quicker basis.

Much research went into this vital problem. I believe the present chairman, Mr. Starr, travelled across Canada, examined jurisdictions in the United States and came back with many ideas. The upshot of all this was that a new appeal system was devised; in fact a very complicated system. One needs to be an expert in finding one's way through it. It's true the appeal structure has isolated itself from the administrative sections of the board by taking over the 21st floor of the Fidinam building that stands at Bloor and Yonge.

[3.15]

If I can be permitted a digression for a moment, that Fidinam building is something else again. If you want to get to the 21st floor you ride there on an express elevator. If a member of the staff is called up to give an explanation to a member of the adjudication division he must go by local elevator, and it is challenging for any person to try to travel between floors of the Workmen's Compensation Board system on the local elevators. If you stand on any administrative floor with a stopwatch and time yourself to see how long it takes you to get an elevator to go to another floor, one can readily understand why it takes an injured workman, or even a Member of Parliament, so long to get information on some of these files, because one must remember that the compensation board no longer occupies a mere five-floor building. It

now occupies every floor between the sixth and 21st floors in that famous building.

**Mr. Ruston:** No wonder they say they lose their files.

**Mr. Nixon:** What a fiasco that was from the word go.

**Mr. Gaunt:** This is not a criticism of the administrative staff. It is a criticism, however, of the Conservative Party.

**Mr. Nixon:** Sold out for 50 grand.

**Mr. Ruston:** For 50 grand and they've got a mess now.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The elevator works perfectly fine; you just haven't been there recently.

**Mr. Gaunt:** Yes, I have. That's where I got a lot of my information as a matter of fact.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** This week?

**Mr. Gaunt:** Yes, this week.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Not from the administration, no way.

**Mr. Ruston:** They have a habit of losing files over there, too.

**Mr. Nixon:** You haven't got those people intimidated.

**Mr. Gaunt:** May I say to the minister that I have talked to some of the administrative people, I talked to one of them as late as this week—last week, **this is Monday.**

**Mr. Wildman:** They completely revitalized the whole thing over the weekend.

**Mr. Gaunt:** Yes, they must have.

**Mr. Nixon:** They have now, the minister spoke to them a couple of days ago.

**Mr. Gaunt:** The fact of the matter is that the building was never built for the purpose of the Workmen's Compensation Board; the board was made to fit into the building, rather than the other way around.

**Mr. Wildman:** That's not what Starr said.

Interjection.

**Mr. Gaunt:** No it's not hogwash, it's true.

Let me get down to cases. I want to describe to you, Mr. Speaker, the procedure in handling a file that one might follow on behalf of a constituent. This is the case of a man feeling he is entitled to additional benefits beyond those paid by the administrative de-

partment. Therefore, he gets in touch with the board by letter and he sits back and waits. I know that the letter will find its way to the file in the section and if the man has been fortunate enough to express himself fairly clearly the matter will be referred to the review branch. This takes an average of a week or 10 days.

The review branch sees the file, looks for any way in which it can be of assistance to the man and if not, as is the case in this particular matter, it simply writes a letter back to the man reviewing the case and closing off with the sentence that he has the right to further appeal through the appeal structure of the board. He is given instructions to file his appeal with the registrar of appeals, who then will see that the file is processed.

So far, approximately two to three weeks have passed since the man got in touch with the board with regard to possible future additional payments, or treatment, or rehabilitation, or any other benefit that might come under the Act.

It is then assigned to an official known as an appeals examiner. We have now reached the nub of the appeal system. The appeals examiner now holds a *viva voce* inquiry—which is a change. It used to be that an initial examination for the purposes of determining whether the matter was ready for a *viva voce* hearing was held, but this is now discarded and it goes immediately for a *viva voce* inquiry.

The appeals examiner has the authority, and rightly so, to direct that all additional administrative steps be taken in order that the full information might be made available on the file before the inquiry. A *viva voce* hearing is ordered, the file is returned by the examiner to the appeals secretary, who then sets up an appointment for a hearing.

On last checking, I found that there was approximately eight to 10 weeks' wait before a hearing could be held in Toronto on behalf of the workman, so we add another eight to 10 weeks to the schedule. This brings us up to a total of at least 11 to 13 weeks before the man gets a chance to say his piece in front of the examiner as to why he should have additional compensation.

I have been to these appeal inquiries. They are not courts. The appeals examiners are men who know their work. They know the statutes. They know what is required. They know what to look for, and instructions from the board are admirable. They are there to see what can be done, in any way within the

framework of the statute, to assist the workman. Consequently, there might be some delay.

After hearing the workman, the examiner may feel that further local investigation is required. He may feel that further evidence from witnesses is required. All of this, of course, brings about further delay. But even if there were no such delay, the examiner must weigh all the information he has, sit down and write it. What does he write? In fact, he writes a decision, but it is not a decision that goes out over his signature as an examiner. He simply gives the decision, which is then ghost written, and he has to come back and get it co-signed by a commissioner. That's in response to one of the recommendations that was suggested by the task force. Consequently, whatever findings are made by the examiner must, in fact, be co-signed or agreed with by another person who comes within the terms of the statute; that is, a commissioner.

I can never imagine that the 1974 amendments to this statute intended that the commissioner should have his decision ghost-written for him by someone else. There is provision in the statute for the office of appeals examiner, but the man who takes responsibility, the man who puts his signature on the order, which represents an order of a corporation set up under the statute of the Province of Ontario, and who in fact holds an appointment made by the cabinet itself, he must either accept the findings of the appeals examiner or go against the decision as written by the appeals examiner and say: "No, I don't agree with that. I want this matter brought back before a full panel of the board itself."

In actual practice, a commissioner very seldom disputes the decision of the examiner. Nevertheless, I think we can appreciate the iniquitous position in which both the appeals examiner and the commissioner find themselves. The appeals examiner is a man of many years' experience in the compensation system. He knows how to adjudicate. He knows the requirements of the statute. He has the ability to reach conclusions with respect to practically any problem under the statute, and yet he himself has no authority to implement those.

But let us get back to the time picture; that's really what I want to deal with here. From the time the appeals examiner dictates his decision it is approximately two weeks before this comes back to him in printed form. This is owing strictly to the volume of material which passes across the desks of



these eight men and their overworked secretaries. These files and the decisions are then handed, of course, to the commissioners. Here is another time lag. Depending on the availability of the persons concerned, it may well be another week to 10 days before the decision, approved without amendment perhaps, reaches the mail.

Some three weeks after the man has had his day before the appeals examiner, he receives an anonymous document—since no signatures appear at the bottom—setting out the findings. He also receives another little slip which tells him that if he doesn't like the findings, he can always appeal.

Once again, he thrusts himself into the mill—and this is where the real slowdown starts. In fact, he has reached the point where he is asking to appear before the board of commissioners. It doesn't matter that he has already been heard by an expert; it doesn't matter that his file has been raked over and combed to see if there is any other point in the man's favour which can help him. The government feels that the man should have the right to go before a board of appointed commissioners as opposed to appointed officials.

Therefore, to get an appointment to go to the board, he writes to the registrar of appeals. No questions are asked as to the merits of the appeal or as to the purpose of the appeal. He is automatically put on the list and the wheels of the mills start to grind. Files are prepared for the commissioners. And the commissioners for the most part, do not feel that they want to read the files, though perhaps some of them do; but in the wisdom of the system summaries of the entire files are prepared for the benefit of the commissioners, and this takes time.

The man had to wait 11 to 13 weeks to say his piece to the examiner. Now he has to wait another three to four weeks at least to get before the board of commissioners. After that has been heard, the commissioners don't write their decision but yet, in the words of the task force, reasons for decisions must be given. Therefore, there is a group of men sitting on the 21st floor whose job it is to translate the feelings of the commissioners into formalized language. A glance at their office and the offices of the girls who work for them will appal you—files on the floor, on top of the filing cabinets, stacked on the desks and the chairs; everywhere that's available. If one is fortunate and the decision is not too complicated, perhaps the thing will be written in about three weeks. Then it goes for typing. Then it goes to find

the three commissioners concerned, and if they are not there it waits for them. Finally, after everything is signed, after everything is typed, the man will get a board decision.

Let us review the time lag. We will assume the board sees fit to give the man an additional award. He has a period of time from the claims department to the review branch, usually about three weeks. From the review branch to the appeals examiner, another week to 10 days. For action by the appeals examiner in setting up a hearing and holding the hearing, 11 to 13 weeks. For processing after hearing from the appeals examiner, another two to three weeks. For filing with the board itself an application for another hearing, two months or eight weeks. For rendering of a decision by the board, anywhere from three weeks to two months—in fairness, let's say five to six weeks. For typing and signatures and mailing, another two to three weeks. And that, by common consent, is roughly 34 weeks.

Then all he has to do is wait for the claims department to go back and process the order as finally written by the board. This is the so-called speedup system. This is the so-called improved system. This is the so-called result of the expertise of P. S. Ross and Partners. These are the figures on the time taken, when there are no complications, for one man to get what the board ultimately says he is entitled to—and additional 34 weeks of waiting, better than half a year.

All right, let's look at ways in which the system can be improved. I am sure no one pictured the need for a workman to have to go through all this morass of red tape that has been created. Surely it should be possible to devise a system whereby the board can keep the files flowing as they did before. Why must the small band of commissioners be so overwhelmed with work that they must have a large staff to summarize the matters they should be reading in detail for themselves?

This is not a judicial system. Nevertheless, this House must bear in mind the fact that it was first brought into being to replace cumbersome procedures which were present prior to 1915. Replacing the cumbersome procedures, it still did not replace the principles of a natural justice which are the basis of all adjudication. It is my contention that the principle of natural justice is not present in a system that has been put in place by this government and is currently being administered by the Workmen's Compensation Board in this province. I think that is obvious when one sees that it entails a wait of some 34



weeks before the workman can finally have his appeal dealt with.

The remedy? I seriously suggest that the Minister of Labour and the government of the province consider scrapping the three level appeal system currently in operation and replace it with essentially a one level appeal system, with an ultimate appeal to the corporate board on matters of policy or where the decision of the commissioners is a split decision. Essentially, what I am saying is that all steps between the review committee and the board should be done away with and that the board should be enlarged to the extent that the flow of files can be adequately handled, that all matters should be heard in their final form by tribunals of three, that the members of such tribunals should be responsible for reading their own files and writing their own decisions. The members of such tribunals of three shall be commissioners within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act, so that the decisions rendered by them shall be final decisions within the meaning of the statute.

[3:30]

I think there have to be other changes as well with respect to how commissioners are dealt with under the proposed system I suggest. I think it's important that these people should be given security of tenure because they have to be experts. They must learn how to study and read a compensation file. They must know where, in the administrative sections of the board, to go for answers they need when there is not sufficient material in those files. These people have to subscribe fully to the basic philosophy that the board is not an adversary system and their ultimate judgements have to be guided by the full rules of natural justice as understood and practised in the common law courts of the British Commonwealth.

For that reason I suggest that these commissioners have to be given security and protection on a long-term basis. Essentially, these commissioners would be appeal experts operating in a one-level appeal system which in my view would speed up the entire appeal process tremendously and at the same time wouldn't sacrifice any advantages of the three-level system which currently operates.

I hope the minister will study this proposal and that some effective alterations will be made to the appeal system at the board. I'm sure the minister would agree with me that a 34-week wait is not good enough in the operation of the board in dealing with injured workmen across this province.

I have one final matter I want to deal with and that's the matter of Essex Packers and the fact that the government has entered into an agreement with the DeJonge Group to operate the Guelph facility. I want to refer first of all to the statement given by the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) in the House on March 18, in which he said: "The advantages of allowing production to continue in this way are many." He outlined the fashion in which it was going to be done.

First, the unsecured creditors will receive some payment. I suggest that could have been achieved by other means, which I will suggest later.

Second, employment opportunities for some 200 to 300 former Essex Packers workers will be maintained. I say that I have the agreement here which was signed—at least the proposal which was put forward which formed the basis of the agreement—and there is absolutely no guarantee in the proposal, or, I understand the agreement, which would guarantee employment of the 200 to 300 former Essex Packer's employees to whom the minister made reference. That fact has been confirmed by the lawyer for the DeJonge Group. They made no such guarantee at all, yet that was one of the key points the minister used in moving to sign this agreement with the DeJonge Group.

Third, there will be a continuing market in the Hamilton and Guelph areas for pork and beef producers, including those who weren't paid when the Essex Packers went into receivership. I suggest that could have been achieved in another way as well.

Fourth, there will be no interruption in the ministry's successful rehabilitation programme. Here, again, I think that could have been taken care of with an agreement on the basis of negotiation with the two other bidders who submitted proposals.

On that point, I must say that from time to time it has been suggested there was really only one proposal which the ministry could entertain. I have before me a proposal which was submitted by Paletta Bros. Meat Products Ltd. to the ministry on Jan. 23, 1976. I understand another proposal was submitted to the ministry on Feb. 26, and yet they turned back both proposals in favour of the DeJonge Group proposal.

I want to go back to the origins of this deal with Essex Packers. There are a number of questions involved here. I think we can very justifiably ask why was Essex Packers chosen in the first place? They certainly



didn't have a particularly good financial record, as is indicated by their financial statement. In 1971, based on the industry average indicating that net profits should be roughly three per cent of sales, it shows they had a net profit of \$118,558 when, taking it on the basis of the three per cent statistic, it should have been \$1,008,000. The same trend runs through all of the annual reports right until March 29, 1975, in which they had a net profit of \$37,271 on total sales of \$49,608,897, which should have given them a profit of \$1,488,000. Obviously, this company was not strong financially and one has to ask why the government entered into an agreement with it in the first place when it was on rather shaky financial grounds.

The other thing I want to mention and pose in the form of a question is what happened to the unaccounted excess, which is the difference between the leasehold as set out in the lease and the \$1 million that was spent by the government on improvements in the Guelph plant, which I should say allowed for a 20 per cent increase over and above the terms of the leasehold? In other words, what I'm asking is what happened to the shortfall of \$534,000? It was agreed in the leasehold that a total of \$285,000 would be spent. If one takes another 20 per cent, that brings it up to the extent of one-fifth, but when one subtracks that figure from \$1 million, there is still a shortfall of \$534,000. I ask has the the government written that amount off, or what has happened to it?

As I understand it, when the government was entering into the proposal with Essex Packers, it actually advertised, and there were a number of companies which were interested. When it was all boiled down, Essex Packers appeared to be the only one which was keenly interested in pursuing the matter. One would have to ask at that point why was it never retendered when the interest waned? Obviously, when some of the successful packers in the business backed away from the proposal as outlined by the government in its tender, then something was wrong; certainly some lights should have gone on at that time with respect to that particular proposal and eventually the agreement which was signed with Essex Packers.

I want to deal for a moment or two with the claims that have been made as substantiation for what the government did in signing with the DeJonge Group to operate the Guelph facility. It has been said they never got any other proposals involving the total package. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that they still haven't got a total proposal. The

Hamilton deal doesn't mean a thing. What happened was that the DeJonge Group took a second charge debenture against the assets of Essex; that simply means that the receiver will operate the Hamilton plant for another six months at which time the assets will be sold, unless Essex can refinance, which is highly unlikely.

At that point, the DeJonge Group will call their second-charge debenture and will be paid off, after the bank. If the plants are sold as operating plants, which is certainly very likely to be the case, the employees will continue working as always; so the government didn't gain a thing on that score.

The other matter was the payment of 15 cents to the unsecured creditors. That was a clever coup on the part of the DeJonge Group. They decided to pay 15 cents immediately; it was very tempting, so a large percentage of the unsecured creditors decided to grab it.

Contrary to what the minister and others have said, the farmers voted against accepting that proposal unanimously, with the exception, I believe, of five who weren't able to attend the meeting because of weather conditions.

If the plants were sold today as operating plants, which they are, they could realize \$1.2 million, which would look after the bank loan and the preferred creditors and would allow for a surplus of \$361,000. That was as of this morning and it came from the receiver, so I presume it is accurate.

In my view, the deals should have been separated. The point is that this deal just delays the bankruptcy of Essex Packers for six months—nothing more, nothing less.

The other part of all this is that the government could have received a far better deal than it got if it had dealt separately with the Guelph plant. It points up the incompetence of this government.

One of the proposals agreed to pay the farmer 100 cents on the dollar but was rejected in favour of the present agreement, which indicates to me that the government really wasn't concerned with the farmers or that it had made up its mind before the other proposals were submitted—one dated Jan. 23, 1976, from Paletta Brothers, and the other from Bradley and Watson, dated Feb. 26. The latter met with the cabinet on Tuesday, March 9.

In my view, it is a shabby way to treat the farmers. It could have done and been perfectly legal contrary to what the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) has said. That is confirmed by one of the best



bankruptcy lawyers in Canada, Mr. David Baird, here in the city. That is also confirmed by the fact that the present agreement pays the creditors off at different levels. Therefore, the argument used by the minister, that he couldn't pay the farmers off at one level, 100 cents on the dollar, without paying everybody off at that level, is not so, and is not according to bankruptcy practice.

This agreement doesn't guarantee anything for the employees beyond what they would have got if Essex had gone bankrupt or if the receiver had continued to operate the plant, as he intends to do. The government didn't get the best deal it could have for the Guelph plant. The government sold the farmers down the river in negotiating 15 cents for the farmers when 100 cents on the dollar was offered. There were other advantages to the Bradley and Watson proposal, particularly as it relates to imports and the supplying of beef to the hotel trade in the province.

The government has an obligation to deal in the public interest. They have not done so in this case; far from it. They have been seriously negligent. No farmer in Ontario is going to sell directly to Better Beef for obvious and well-reported reasons. That means that Better Beef will only be able to buy cattle at public auctions or import beef for killing purposes.

In an Ontario government facility, Ontario beef should be killed in that plant; that is not going to be the case.

I plead with the government to reopen this matter and to separate the Hamilton and Guelph facilities. I think the government should tender for the Guelph plant in an endeavour to get the best deal possible and to restore public confidence in the government's handling of this particular affair.

Mr. Speaker, it is very much like the new Hydro building. Hydro fixed on Mr. Moog to build it, and it didn't matter what anyone else had to say or what they proposed; that was it. The government wants to retrieve its credibility in this situation. The only recourse, in my view, is to reopen the entire matter, and so I leave it at that, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you, sir, for your patience and the opportunity to participate in this way.

[3:45]

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to follow my hon. friend from Huron-Bruce. I was quite interested in his reference to our Canadian geese vacationing in Tennessee. This greatly concerned me, and I even offered my services to the ministry to travel to Tennessee and

guide these wayward birds home. However, they turned down my request. I must also agree with the hon. member that I too am concerned with the DeJonge purchase of Essex Packers, and I hope that the Ministry of Correctional Services monitors this operation very closely.

At this time, I want to congratulate the member for Hamilton West (Mr. S. Smith) upon his election as the leader of the third party in this House. I know that in the coming days, weeks and years, assuming we survive the vote this evening, the new leader will take his rightful place in this legislative assembly and will make a positive and continuing contribution to the careful deliberations which characterize this Legislature. I trust that he takes solace and comfort in the presence of the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), and that his decisions will be guided and influenced by that member's long experience in this assembly.

I am certainly happy to see that the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has not shirked from participating in his fullest capacity as a leading light of this assembly, and that's the end of the compliments to the Liberals.

I also want to congratulate the leader of the official opposition for his incisive and witty remarks in his reply to the Speech from the Throne. Having said that, however, I cannot accept fully either the intent or the substance of his remarks because I find them full of futile criticism and rather barren in specific and constructive alternatives.

The present economic and social conditions which confront all citizens of Ontario reminds me of one of the great books of English literature, a novel which I am certain a large number of my hon. colleagues in this House has read. Written by Charles Dickens, "A Tale of Two Cities," opened many worlds to all of us, worlds of which we were totally unaware. I think "A Tale of Two Cities" is very apt for the circumstances in which we find ourselves today.

I want to quote for a moment one of the great passages out of that novel:

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us.

I believe that Dickens' description of two of the great cities of the world has a specific application to our present situation. On the one hand, we have the government of this fine province attempting to put the brakes on



government spending, attempting to bring the public sector of Ontario under some reasonable degree of control, attempting to rearrange spending priorities without basically affecting the overall level of human services provided to the people of this province, but on the reverse side we face the leader of the official opposition who refuses absolutely to acknowledge our efforts at restraining government expenditures, who fails to understand the impact of inflation on every citizen in our society, who refuses to see the other side of reality; an opposition leader who would consistently say "yes" to every increase in government expenditure, and yet in the same breath accuse this government of fiscal mismanagement.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is a tale of two cities—a tale of two political parties whose political and social views, attitudes and philosophies toward the present set of circumstances are entirely different. In fact, I would go so far as to say those philosophies and attitudes are fundamental in division and basic in perception of the realities confronting all of us in Ontario today.

Together, let's examine a little more closely the tale of the New Democrats and let us just see where they have arrived since last September. Opposite us is a party riddled with contradictions and inconsistencies in its political philosophies—a party which is deeply divided within itself on the question of ideology, and yet it is not even aware of it.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Who are you talking about?

**Mr. Davidson:** What makes you aware of it?

**Mr. Johnson:** All we have to do is look at the new Leader of the Opposition, the new mask of the man who represents Scarborough West (Mr. Lewis), and what do we find, fellow colleagues? We find a leader who now projects the image of sweet reasonableness—a leader who constantly uses the word "reason" and the word "reasonable," a leader who believes in reasonable solutions from intelligent thinking citizens.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Are you not in favour of reasonable solutions?

**Mr. Johnson:** That is the new image of the official Leader of the Opposition, the new image of the New Democrats. I find the transition incredibly Jekyll and Hyde in its thrust, incredibly intriguing in terms of the tensions and contradictions created by this character.

**Mr. Davidson:** He took lessons from the Premier (Mr. Davis).

**Mr. Moffatt:** Do you agree then?

**Mr. Johnson:** While the Leader of the Opposition projects a reasonable image, the large majority of his followers have not abandoned, as he has, their bedrock socialism, their deep commitment to the internal expansion of government within the public sector.

**Mr. Bain:** We still believe in people.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Johnson:** That is the central nature of their contradiction, that is the central nature of their tensions. How do you reconcile reason with socialism, a party of free enterprise with a party of socialist dogma? To use a favourite phrase of the New Democratic Party, let's document this contradiction. Recently, the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) explained that his party is becoming the party of free enterprise, and on what grounds does he make such a claim? On the grounds of protecting the small businessmen, particularly the individual operating a self-serve gas bar.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Good for him.

**Mr. Johnson:** He would seek to do this by setting one wholesale price for gasoline and preventing major oil companies from directly operating self-serve gas bars. In other words, through intervention of the state the New Democrats suddenly become free enterprisers. What a ridiculous claim!

What does such a claim indicate as to the philosophical directions of the New Democrats? What does such a claim tell the voting public about the internal contradictions of the political party opposite? What it does show is that the New Democrats understand the only way they will ever gain power in Ontario is to project an aura of sweet reasonableness, to portray themselves as the champions of the ordinary citizen, as champions to the downtrodden and the disadvantaged, as protectors of the small business community.

**Mr. MacDonald:** You are trampling them down. We are protecting them.

**Mr. Johnson:** In doing so, it means their complete abandonment of bedrock socialism. It speaks to their abandonment of their deepest socialist principles—

**Mr. MacDonald:** Nonsense!

**Mr. Johnson:** —namely, the nationalization of the resource industries in Ontario, the enslavement of all our people and an increasingly complicated web of complex regulations and directives.

**Mr. Bain:** We can't make regulations any more complicated than they are already.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Johnson:** Instead of weaving a tale of deception and disguise, it's time for the NDP really to tell the voters of this province where they stand on all the major issues of this day. The casual observer doesn't have to look far for evidence of the kind of government which New Democrats would provide for Ontario citizens. Take a look at labour relations for a moment. Instead of attempting to reduce the number of labour disputes in this province, the NDP would intensify them by expanding the right of public servants to strike.

**Mr. MacDonald:** As you gave the teachers.

**Mr. Johnson:** We would end up with more labour disputes and more labour interruptions than we have already experienced; and heaven knows we have had enough of those now.

**Mr. Moffatt:** You are not in favour of strikes?

**Mr. Davidson:** In your view one strike would be too many.

**Mr. Johnson:** Mr. Speaker, the NDP version of free enterprise is almost laughable. Take a look at the record of the British Columbia New Democratic government before its defeat last December.

**Mr. Moffatt:** But look at the record since then.

**Mr. Johnson:** Incidentally, that was the record of which the New Democrats opposite used to be terribly proud and they used the slogan, "Strike it rich in NDP provinces." Now we hardly ever hear of the former BC Barrett government. Why?

**Mr. Moffatt:** Because the papers are full of Bennett's latest manoeuvres.

**Mr. Johnson:** Mr. Speaker, all you have to do is look at the NDP record in British Columbia and you will be startled by certain trends. For example, government capital investment in 1972, before the New Democrats gained power, was 33 per cent of total

capital investment in that province. By 1974, total government capital investment had risen to 40 per cent of total capital investment in British Columbia. When the New Democrats speak of free enterprise, what they really mean is state capitalism in its full glory.

When the NDP speak of attaining their balanced mix of taxation in Ontario, that really translates as higher corporation taxes, especially on the resource industries in Ontario. Again, if we examine the NDP record in British Columbia, we will find the following: First, the mining royalties went from \$15 million to \$9 million during the past fiscal year.

**Mr. Moffatt:** That was great.

**Mr. Johnson:** Second, forestry stumpage went from \$220 million to \$135 million, because of high rates of corporate taxes—rates that amount of outright confiscation.

**Mr. Moffatt:** That is what Darcy is going to do tomorrow night.

**Mr. Johnson:** From these examples can be seen the sorry state of declining capital investment in British Columbia. It's a tale of increasing taxation, not only in the corporate sector but, in the long run, on the ordinary citizen. It's a tale of government expansion at the expense of the private sector; at the expense of individual initiative; at the destruction of risk-taking.

For all of these reasons, the tale of the New Democrats is a woeful one. It's a tale of contradiction, of socialist betrayal, of upside-down social priorities and of economic unreality. It is my fervent hope that the official opposition will return to its principle of bedrock socialism.

**Mr. MacDonald:** That's what you hope.

**Mr. Johnson:** At least then the voting public will know what it is getting when it votes New Democrat, or old socialist. Compare the tale of the New Democrats with the tale of responsible government, of the Ontario government grappling with economic restraints and succeeding at a very uneasy assignment. I say that without any qualification, knowing that the official opposition is in favour of talking about restraint but never really putting it into effect.

In fact, I am beginning to believe very deeply that the New Democrats fail utterly to understand the real problems facing all of us in Ontario today—that of double-digit inflation—inflation which is enduring and sustaining; inflation which requires restraint.



The budgetary deficit which we have today stems in good part from the increasing demand for public services during the prosperous and growing 1960s. That deficit in part stems from this government's response to the social and economic needs of all its citizens—

**Mr. Davidson:** Did they get a stadium for it?

**Mr. Johnson:** —in recognizing the necessity of managing the consequences of economic growth, in realizing the development of larger towns and cities, and in the expansion of people services. Back in those years the New Democrats never accused this government of fiscal mismanagement, but they criticized it for not providing sufficient funds for all the types of public services, and those aren't just empty words. All you have to do, Mr. Speaker, is look at the public record.

[4:00]

The basic facts must be faced. Provincial expenditures in social security have amounted to an increase of 221 per cent from 1970-1971 to the current fiscal year. Now the same party which criticizes the government for putting a 5.5 per cent limit on the growth of social service expenditures is criticizing it for cutting those expenditures back.

I ask the members: When did an increase of 5.5 per cent suddenly become a cutback? Do my colleagues opposite really understand the nature of the economic problems facing us? Do they realize that in the Province of Quebec government expenditures increased 21 per cent in the present fiscal year and that happened under a Liberal government? Do they also recognize that for the coming fiscal year that same Quebec government will limit overall expenditures in the government sector to an eight per cent increase—two per cent less than here in Ontario?

I sometimes wonder whether the New Democrats wear coloured blinders in looking at the world. Listening to their criticisms, they often appear to regard the restraint programme being carried out by this government as a programme of welfare bashing; as a co-ordinated comprehensive attempt to undermine social services in this province; as a determined method to hurt those less fortunate than ourselves. If so, that is an unjustified and unwarranted interpretation of what the government is trying to do for the coming fiscal year.

Ontario does not live in an isolated, closed economic environment. Our large manufacturing industry in this province depends on a

healthy export market and on a healthy international trading economy. In turn, government expenditures are directly related to the real economic growth of this province.

It is not just Ontario which is facing severe unemployment and high rates of inflation. All of Canada and most of the industrialized western world are suffering the same problems. It is in that context that the provincial government has consistently supported the need for economic controls to fight inflation, inflation eroding the savings of every citizen in this country.

That explains why this government placed the public sector of Ontario under the leadership of the Anti-Inflation Board at the federal level. Inflation is just not restricted to the borders of Ontario as suggested by the two opposition parties in the House in their proposal to have a provincial anti-inflation board. It simply defies economic reasoning, the very reasoning which the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) has so often appealed to in the past few months.

People at every level in Ontario's society are already making hard choices about their personal budgets. Those same people expect the same type of practice and approach in public spending by their government. The government is subject to some fiscal imperfections but at least we were one of the first provinces in Canada to recognize that government spending in itself is the principal cause of inflation.

That is why I am happy to support this Speech from the Throne brought down in this session. The citizens of this fine province want strong and positive economic leadership in containing inflation and in having the capacity to carry out some hard decisions to provide for a more stable and secure future, economically and socially.

When people read back on this area of Ontario history, they will want to read about a tale of optimism; a tale of considering the long-range rather than the short term; a tale of hope and not one of despair.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, I intend to devote my remarks exclusively this afternoon to the topic of agricultural land use and the vital need for preserving our food lands in this province.

Over the last three or four years, the provincial Treasurers—first Darcy McKeough, then John White and now Darcy McKeough again—have been teasing us with the prospect that the government of the Province of Ontario was going to unveil a land-use plan for the Province of Ontario. The news indicates



to us that sometime later this week—if not then, next week—we are going to have such an unveiling and, in the context of that unveiling, presumably the government is going to grapple with what has emerged as the most important issue in that whole land-use question, namely, the need for preserving our foodland.

Just so that the government won't feel that it is slipping behind, I have a document that the leader of this party and I have just released to the press, which came to us in a brown paper envelope. It's a very interesting document.

**Mr. Bain:** Somebody's shredder is not working.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Apparently in the process of trying to make up its mind what the government policy was going to be on preserving foodland—we have had a lot of rhetoric but we've had no policy and there was nothing in the Throne Speech to clarify it—some one or two statements were prepared and my information is that they were turned down by the cabinet.

**Mr. Davidson:** Check those shredding machines over there.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Then the government went out to one of its regular consultants on agriculture issues and other issues over the last 10 or 15 years, namely Hedlin Menzies, and Roger Schwass of that firm produced a document, a copy of which I have in my hand, which reads like the first draft of a speech which is going to spell out, not too clearly, but spell out somewhat, the government's programme for preserving agricultural land.

**Mr. Kennedy:** What's the date on it? That's last year's brown envelope.

**Mr. MacDonald:** There is no date on it. It's the date that is going to be when you announce it this Thursday or next week.

**Mr. Kennedy:** That's last year's brown envelope.

**Mr. Lewis:** Thursday night last it was approved by you people.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Thursday night last, as a matter of fact, it was considered by a cabinet committee, perhaps chaired by the gentleman into whose charming blue eyes I am now gazing.

Interjections.

**Mr. MacDonald:** It was approved and, therefore, at least in terms of its substance it reflects something of what the government had in mind. I want to come back to some of that substance, because it is rather fascinating that nothing from the ministry was satisfactory and that a politically acceptable document was produced by one of the faithful consultants who have worked for the government over the last 10 or 15 years.

**Hon. Mr. Henderson:** What date is on your copy?

**Mr. MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, let me make this point first, it is difficult for any government to move with a new policy if there isn't a consensus in society with regard to that policy. Conversely, if there is a consensus then there is no excuse for not moving, particularly if that issue happens to be a vitally important issue, such as the preserving of foodland. I just want to remind the House of how remarkable is the consensus that has emerged in Ontario in the last year or so with regard to the preserving of foodland. For example, as my leader put on the record during his contribution to the Throne debate, we have this document from the Ontario Institute of Agrologists, which includes in its number the Minister of Agriculture—I only wish he believed what was in the document—and it was also interesting to note that the land use committee which prepared this document includes people like D. W. Middleton, of the Land Compensation Board, Dr. R. Frank, of the provincial pesticide residue testing laboratory, Lyall MacLachlan, of the food systems branch of Agriculture Canada, and V. I. D. Spence, the director of the food land development branch. All of these people presumably had an input onto it. And what does it say? Its key recommendation:

That the government of Ontario, within the next year [Let me pause, this came out in November, so that means within the year 1976] pass legislation designating class 1, 2, 3, and special crop lands as foodland or land for agricultural production and reserving such land for present or future production of food. The institute recognizes some occasions may arise when use of some foodland for other purposes can be justified. However, it recommends that other potential users be required to prove their need cannot be met by use of other land, and further, that where at all feasible they be required to use the poorer classes of food land.

That is a clear-cut request of this government to pass legislation. That's one.



**Hon. Mr. Irvine:** We met with them the same day.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Sure you did. You obviously didn't listen to them or hear what they said. I have here a copy of a brief, "A Report on Planning in Rural Ontario," prepared by the Ontario Association of Rural Municipalities. I don't need to remind members that the Association of Rural Municipalities is made up of those elected rural representatives who have been grappling with the problem of rural land use. They've been facing the fact that agricultural land, without a policy from the top, has been disappearing quickly. What do they say? I quote from page 5:

When legislation that restricts the uses of the designated agricultural land is enacted [in other words, they anticipate it; they assume it; it's basic] and the authority having jurisdiction receives a proposal to change the designation, such change in use shall only be allowed when consent has been granted by the planning authority of the jurisdiction in the area; the local council in which the lands are situated; the county or regional council in which the local authorities are situated; and the provincial planning authority including the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

If unanimous consent is not received from the above bodies the parties requesting such change shall have recourse to have their case presented before a land tribunal, empowered and informed to make a binding decision on the question.

In short, they are calling for the establishment of a land commission like that in BC—dare I, in the presence of my friend who has just sat down, shock him?—like the land commission in BC, a land tribunal they call it, which will examine any application for exemption of foodlands which, generally speaking, should be kept for agricultural production, food production.

**Mr. Lewis:** By statute.

**Mr. MacDonald:** By statute, by legislation.

Let me go to another document and this is very fascinating. Here is the COLUC report and in case members of the House have forgotten, the COLUC report was the product of six ministries of this government—namely, Agriculture and Food; Environment; Housing; Natural Resources; Transportation and Communications, Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs—along with the five or six regional governments in the "golden horse-shoe" area.

What do they say?

A firm, positive, long-term agricultural strategy is required for lands of mainly prime agricultural quality lying beyond the urban places examined in the COLUC mature state preferences. [A little later:] Clearly, the government's first step in ensuring a viable agricultural industry is the designation of these lands as areas of agricultural priority for the foreseeable future.

The minister can't designate it without the statute which legislates that that's going to be the case.

**Hon. W. Newman:** You would take all the authority away from the municipalities. That's what you are saying.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Go away, that's simply confusing the issue.

**Mr. Lewis:** This is a consensus from everyone.

**Mr. MacDonald:** This happens to be the agrologists. This happens to be the Association of Rural Municipalities who are the people elected and who are now running those municipalities. Don't deny them when they've asked it.

**Hon. W. Newman:** And you would take all the authority away.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Just be quiet and don't deny they have requested it—the people whom you say we're trying to take the authority away from. I'll tell you why they want that authority in a moment if you'd just let me conclude. "Designation will have to be reinforced [and this is good for my friend from Wellington-Dufferin-Peel] by either a declaration of reserve [parenthetically they add] perhaps following the example of the British Columbia Land Commission—"

**Mr. Lewis:** Right.

**Mr. MacDonald:** To continue: —"or a system of development controls or similar measures." That, again, came from a document which was produced by six ministries—six key ministries—within this government.

We have listened to the minister. For example, when the leader of this party was spelling out this he interjected with sort of, "Do you want to freeze everything?" It is time for the minister to quit playing games. If the minister is going to indulge in the rhetoric of telling the people of the Province of Ontario that this government not only wants to but intends to preserve agricultural land, he can't have it both ways.

If he is going to preserve agricultural land he must say now that agricultural land ceases to be a commodity in the marketplace which can be bought and sold by anybody for any purpose when and if he sees fit. Agricultural land henceforth is going to be regarded as a precious natural resource and the only way the minister is going to be able to protect it as a precious natural resource is if he does as the agrologists ask.

[4:15]

The government does as the leaders of the the local municipalities and the Ontario Association of Rural Municipalities have asked for, it does as its own COLUC report involving six of its key ministries asked for, it passes legislation to designate that land as food land from this point forward with the necessary machinery for considering exemptions where they're justified. Don't interject with this sort of cheap business about "we want a freeze."

**Hon. W. Newman:** The member doesn't know what we are doing in the ministry. He has no idea.

**Mr. MacDonald:** If the government wants to do it, let it do it.

**Mr. Lewis:** We have the minister's speech.

**Mr. MacDonald:** We have his speech, and we listened to him in the interjections.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Which speech?

**Mr. MacDonald:** Now what has been done, Mr. Speaker? I want to acknowledge that something has been done by this government, and potentially it might even be effective, but not with what's in the wind in this brown paper envelope that we received just a few days ago.

Within the past year, this government has established within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food a branch called the food development branch. That food development branch came into being on April 1, 1975, at least in terms of its first budget. Throughout the first six months or so of its operations, it was passing judgement on official plans; it was passing judgement on subdivision requests that had come in, on severances, and all these various matters that had come into one or other ministry, particularly the Ministry of Housing, and these judgements were passed around for comment. It was pointed out by many people in the press last spring and summer that sometimes it was heeded when they commented in the hope of protecting

agricultural land, but most often it wasn't heeded.

Last September something happened in this province. What happened in this province was, in addition to all of these experts who have produced documents now, the people of this province spoke. It was very clear in the people of this province speaking and the reduced majority of the government that one of the main issues was the government's failure to grapple with this preservation of foodland, not only in rural areas, but also in the city areas. Since then, it is said that some messages come down that the efforts or the comments of the foodland development branch with regard to the use of agricultural land should be heeded more than had been the case in the past.

The point I want to draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, is that it's a typical piecemeal reluctant kind of approach. The foodland development branch has no statutory power. While they were sitting there protecting agricultural land, 60 per cent of the land that went into OHAP in Peel was class 1 and class 2 agricultural land. I have talked with the people in this branch, because I was very interested indeed and I think they are well-intentioned and, if they were given the power, they might do something, but they are not being given the power.

Do you know what it reminds me of, Mr. Speaker? It's a delightful summary or estimate of how this government operates. I have here in my hands a copy of Jonathan Manthorpe's book on "The Power and the Tories." He has a quote on page 8, which is so magnificently appropriate here.

To a large extent the Conservatives have not led the province; rather, they have been dragged along by the needs and demands of its people. Changes in policy directions have generally been taken, not to anticipate a need, but when the need had become a problem and the clamour for change had become so great that the political penalty for inactivity has outweighed the penalty for acting. "Do nothing until you have to and then only as little as you can get away with," might well have been the catch phrase of the government.

That is a magnificent description of this government's philosophy and approach, and never was it more apt than in its whole approach to the preservation of food lands.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Why don't you say whether you believe in freezing series 1, 2,



3 and 4 agricultural land? Is that your policy or not?

**Mr. MacDonald:** I just said that the agrologists, an organization of which the minister is a member, have asked for just that.

Interjections.

**Mr. MacDonald:** I have just said that the rural municipalities have asked for just that.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

Interjections.

**Mr. MacDonald:** I have just pointed out that six of the ministries in the government have asked for just that and, therefore, I am in favour—are your listening?—

**Hon. W. Newman:** Yes.

**Mr. MacDonald:** —of legislation to preserve food lands.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Freezing it?

**Mr. Lewis:** The member just said, "legislation to preserve food lands."

**Mr. MacDonald:** Legislation to preserve food lands. You can call it freeze; you can call it what you want, but don't try to kid the public that you want to preserve it when you're not willing to pass the legislation.

**Hon. W. Newman:** We have been preserving it all over this province.

**Mr. Lewis:** You don't have to pass legislation. You can establish the land and provide exemptions to it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for York South has the floor.

**Mr. MacDonald:** We had a policy before that brown envelope arrived. That's just the icing on the cake of my speech this afternoon. I had my speech prepared for last week.

The foodland development branch potentially is a land commission like the one they have in British Columbia. In other words, anybody who wants to make an exception and use food land for something other than that has to come before the foodland development branch and they make some comment. The problem with the foodland development branch is that it has no power. The government has given it no power, because the government is not willing to do that. It is just indulging in rhetoric; there's no real action to make certain that it happens.

Let me go one step further. My friend across the way asks what we are going to do about it. Well, I am fascinated. Back in 1973, this government entered into a partnership with the county of Huron to make a study of how agricultural lands could be preserved and how to cope with the problems of urban development out into the rural areas. They spent \$110,000 or \$120,000, and 80 per cent of it came out of this government. They produced a report, the final version of which has been available since last July.

I haven't heard a single spokesman for this government refer to this report. I have yet to hear the minister even allude to it. It is a report that spells out the policies for Huron county; but, even more important, it is a report that spells out a methodology that could be applied all across the Province of Ontario as a means of preserving agricultural land. Indeed, one of the recommendations of the report was that the government should test that methodology in some five or six other places; but, because of the restraint programme, that is just another potentially good thing that has gone down the drain. Perhaps it is being used anyway in Northumberland, in Simcoe and in Lambton, those three areas for which the government has new reports, which the brown-paper-envelope speech refers to as coming down some time shortly.

But when is the government going to spell out its policy? That brown-envelope speech, for example, refers to the fact that the foodland development branch is supposed to be producing guidelines. Just let me quote one interesting comment here:

The branch is charged with developing food land guidelines for developing plans for urban growth and inter-agricultural use in fringe areas, for developing policies to divert pressures from rural, residential and industrial areas away from the food lands and into more suitable areas.

Where are those guidelines? Are they going to be part—

**Hon. W. Newman:** You haven't even seen them.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Are they going to be part of the great unveiling, the Cecil B. deMille extravaganza? Another design for Ontario that we are going to get on Thursday of this week or some time next week?

**Mr. Lewis:** No. 17.

**Mr. MacDonald:** I hope we will get them some time, because what this report does—and I am not going to have the time this

afternoon to go into it, as I would like to for an hour or two or three; it would be useful to do so, because obviously the government doesn't know about it, because it's not speaking about it. What this report suggests is that we should have guidelines in a context of overall provincial strategy, spelled out at the provincial level; then at the county level and at the regional government level we should designate what they describe as perspectives or areas of priority in which either agriculture, urban development, recreation development, forest development or mineral development might take place.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Now you don't want it frozen.

**Mr. MacDonald:** There should be five different perspectives. Then, within the framework of those perspectives or priorities, the local municipalities—right down at the grass-roots level—will then work out the details for implementing it. That can be done if this is what the government has in mind, and why the gestation period has taken so long, heaven only knows. That can be done only if the government spells out the overall strategy—provides them with the guidelines. But it must be done in the context of what they have all asked for—legislation to preserve food lands so that we will reverse the traditional approach that food lands are there to be used when and if anybody wants them for any other purpose. If the government doesn't do that, the whole process is going to be another piecemeal, ineffective kind of approach.

**Hon. W. Newman:** You are contradicting yourself.

**Mr. MacDonald:** I am not contradicting myself. Let me just show members once again the contradictions between the reality of this report and their study and what's in the brown-paper-envelope speech that the minister perhaps is going to give after the revisions have been made from this afternoon's entry into this. On page 8 of the "Country-side Planning"—

**Mr. Lewis:** The report that Roger Schwass of Hedlin Menzies wrote for you.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Right.

**Mr. Lewis:** Just relax.

**Mr. MacDonald:** I quote:

In the absence of government policies and planning controls [we had none] the use of land resources is decided by the free market economy. Whoever can buy it,

gets it. He uses it as he pleases and our food lands go down the drain.

What does this speech say? This speech, the brown-paper-envelope speech, uses the minister's phrase—obviously they are writing a speech to meet the minister's prejudices—"We don't want freezes. Freezes are bad."

What do they want? In the middle of page 13, "Instead, we believe that the marketplace should be left to operate as far as possible."

Mr. Speaker, if the marketplace operates as far as possible and that's what's happened in the past, don't let the minister try to kid the people of the Province of Ontario that he is going to preserve food land. It will not happen.

Interjection.

**Mr. MacDonald:** The interesting question is, does the minister know what he is doing?

**Hon. W. Newman:** Yes, we do.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order.

**An hon. member:** We know what you are doing. Look at North Pickering development.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, I want to have two footnotes to this and then I shall leave the matter now because I don't have the time in the time constraints of this afternoon.

One footnote is that if the government is seriously going to move, it has to have a Canada land inventory which is up to date instead of the one everybody has been operating with until now and which was produced in the late 1920s and the 1930s. I know the minister, along with Canada Agriculture in Ottawa and this soil research branch—is that what it's called?

**Mr. Lewis:** Soil resource centre.

**Mr. MacDonald:** —soil resource centre in Guelph has people who are engaged in the upgrading of the CLI so that we will have some more sound and reliable information in judging what are the categories of land we are working with.

One of the fascinating ways in which the government has operated, however, is that, faced with the prospect of all that agricultural land going out of production and out of use around Haldimand-Norfolk, it got in and upgraded it in Haldimand-Norfolk to discover that it was painfully in error.

For example, at the site of the town that is being built, as was pointed out by my



leader in his Throne Speech debate contribution—the Townsend site down there—in 1928 CLI had only seven per cent of the land in class 1. In upgrading it we now find that 37 per cent of it is class 1 so there are tens of thousands of acres of agricultural land going out of use because the basic information we have is out of date. What is this government doing to get that information up to date so that it can move intelligently? In the Province of Ontario we have a professional soil surveyor—pedologists—three, the same as the Province of Newfoundland. When is the minister going to get at this because this is a basic requirement so that he can operate intelligently, authoritatively? The second and final thing that I want to draw to the attention of the minister is, is it considered policy which he finally enunciated—I must point out for his consideration another recommendation of the COLUC report to be found on page 38:

For the semi-idle land the government might consider selective purchase and sale back or lease back, possibly involving a government land sponsored assembly programme. It might also consider tax devices to coax idle land back into agriculture; e.g., an additional tax on speculative profits from idle land, shifting of the tax burden from farmers to owners of idle land; pegging farm tax to capability in agricultural use.

In other words, without going into the detail of it, we have to have a farm income stabilization programme to assure farmers that they will have an income to meet their needs. At the other end we have to reduce their costs, perhaps by even more tax concessions than we have now, perhaps that's in the wind in the next two or three days.

[4:30]

I hear little birdies whisper that perhaps that's under consideration by way of trying to refurbish the government's image out in rural Ontario. We will support it. We will support it as a means of strengthening the viability of agriculture. But if the government is going to bring back into the pool of that foodland something of the two million acres that are going to be required by the year 2000 in addition to the 10 million acres we now have, it has to have some sort of a mechanism for buying up the land, for assembling the land, leasing it to people who want to use it for food land purposes.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Do you know how many acres of land are being farmed in this province?

**Mr. MacDonald:** The government has an ARDA programme which is doing that. In other words, it is not so radical that it's beyond the prospect of the government considering it.

Ninety per cent of the land in the Province of Ontario at the present time is Crown land—a shattering thought—owned by the government. A shattering thought. If the government added another half or one per cent by accumulating it, in order that we protect it and preserve it, in a land bank, that I suggest is a mechanism that the minister might consider when he polishes up that speech in the brown-paper envelope that Roger Schwass wrote for him and gives us his final version through which he has sweated so endlessly over the last two weeks.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Lewis:** It won't be ready for Thursday, I tell you. It will be next week now.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The member for York Centre now, thank you.

**Mr. Lewis:** It will be next week now when you rewrite it again.

**Mr. MacDonald:** I'll make the minister an offer. I'll write the speech for him. Furthermore, it would conform with all these proposals, too.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Stong:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address this House on a matter that was conspicuous more by its absence from than its inclusion in the Throne Speech, and that topic is our present attitude toward education.

Even as recently as last week, the Premier (Mr. Davis), while addressing students at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, alluded to the fact that the weaknesses we are experiencing in our educational system may be grounded in the circumstances which exist outside that system. The work of this House has been involved with, among other things, two very significant matters since the adjournment before Christmas—two matters which represent seriously escalating problems and which reflect the quality of life in our province. The two matters were the teachers' strikes in Metropolitan Toronto and Kirkland Lake.

These strikes were significant, not only because the Legislature interfered by legislation with the inherent right to bargain collectively and ultimately strike, which had only one year previously been embodied in Bill 100, but also because legislating the teachers back to work has even more significance in

that the situation underlines the fact that society has abrogated its own responsibility and relegated it to the teachers. Despite the legislation which this House has passed, the situation continues to grow and it exists even today in Windsor and Sault Ste. Marie.

Confrontation politics has finally struck the fibres from which society draws its strength. The teachers' strike is apparently reduced to no more but no less than confrontation between teachers and parents. Teachers who on the one hand seek compensation for the extra demands made of them, and parents on the other who have transferred to the teacher much of their responsibility but who are, at the same time, unwilling to face the fact that they have done so.

When faced with the problem of a strike by the teachers in both Kirkland Lake and Metropolitan Toronto, this House directed its attention to a short-term solution and that was passing immediate back-to-work legislation. But before it is too late, this House must consider a long-term solution which is to embark upon a massive and immediate programme of educating and attuning the public to the changing role of the teacher so that teachers and boards of education may come to a more equitable settlement quickly and efficiently, and without acrimony.

In considering the long-term solution we must first direct our minds to what has motivated the teacher to enter the profession of teaching in the past. Formerly, the salary paid to the teaching profession was adequate and the position of a teacher carried with it the prestige and recognition of such an honourable and demanding occupation.

Mr. Moffatt: Well said.

Mr. Stong: Teachers had been offered a suitable and complete pension plan and were motivated by an ambition to improve society in general. Past conditions and discipline in the teaching profession recognize that the teachers' federation was not a collective bargaining force, like a union negotiating early contracts; its primary interest was the improvement of internal education and the guaranteeing of job security.

In the past, teachers had been held in high regard by society, not only because they demonstrated their professional skills and personal satisfaction in educating our most precious possession, but they were recognized for their role. They had, and still do have, the greatest impact on our children, because they work with them throughout their formative years.

Teachers have always had tremendous contact with children, but as mothers and fathers assume a greater role in the labour market teachers have an even greater role to play with the formation of our children. Twenty years ago, day care was virtually unknown to our society but today parents take it for granted.

Let's examine the basic historic values which no longer prevail in the year 1976. The salary of the teaching profession is no longer adequate compared to organized labour. The teachers' pension plan no longer binds the teacher into an effective programme; first because inflation is eating away the value of the pension; second, pension plans are becoming more universal and organized labour has moved relentlessly to attain larger and better plans; and third, drastic reduction in family size means less population and thus fewer teachers, therefore a surplus of teachers is a very imminent danger.

In today's society teachers have been forced to assume increased responsibilities. As service industry is growing by leaps and bounds and industrial production is expanding rapidly, more and more people in our society than ever before require vocational training. Also, as the mass media influences our way of life, our youth are lured into the field of sport as a lifetime occupation. The increasing availability of leisure time assists to make all this possible, and the teaching profession is expected to assume the responsibility of the formation of our athletic super stars.

As more parents are leaving the home to engage in the labour market, teachers are expected to assume a greater role in social education, particularly in the area of sex education, as well as in drugs and alcohol and the communication problems of our youth. This increased responsibility for teachers is created by an ever-changing society, where both parents work and the grandparents, if alive, are separated from the family, are living in nursing homes or senior citizens' homes; or are holidaying out of the province or working to maintain themselves.

As these changes influence the family structure, more and more of our children are affected. Today's teacher must, by necessity, have a greater impact on the child of this generation. Our changing society demands not less of our teachers but more, and will continue to do so.

As this shifting of responsibility continues, the growing confrontation between government, school board and teacher will rapidly shift to confrontation between parent and teacher if it has not already done so. Parents



have unconsciously shifted their responsibility for their children's development to the teaching profession without a compensating concern for the added burden which has been placed on the shoulders of those teachers.

Twenty years ago sociologists proved, and people accepted, the basic truth that children with inadequate diet could not truly benefit from the educational system. Therefore, warm meals became part of the school programme in some underprivileged areas. Today in the USA this is a federal programme, but we have not progressed beyond this simple dietary problem.

If confrontations continue and become more severe, by 1981 there will be little prestige in this honourable and increasingly demanding profession. Historically, teachers have not enjoyed a high level of wealth, which perhaps has been compensated by personal achievement. If we accept this historic fact of life, then we can understand why the major goal of the teachers' federation has been improvement of educational structures, with a lesser emphasis on collective bargaining.

As the provincial representative for York Centre, I have received great criticism from parents who, because of the location of York Centre, are greatly influenced by the Toronto mass media. In 1974, high school teachers in the regional municipality of York struck. In 1975, teachers of Metropolitan Toronto struck, and even now we have ever-increasing threats of strikes by teachers in other parts of Ontario.

Parents complain that children are finishing high school but can neither read nor write. They have expressed the view that our educational system is inadequate and does not reflect the increased realty taxes which they pay each year. They complain about school discipline in the academic subjects.

We have indeed run out of time as our children's future is at stake and the teaching profession seems to be in jeopardy. But I remind my friends to the right, the official opposition, that no politician will serve this province who exploits this situation for political gain. We must strive together in a sincere attempt to end this critical situation in Ontario. It would be easy to hurl darts at the party in power for its imposition of spending ceiling which restricted wage settlements by school boards over the past five or six years, but this is a partisan political approach.

We must strive to ease confrontation, perhaps by permitting salary negotiations to be conducted by a provincial agency on a province-wide basis. Perhaps we will have to re-

move the right to strike from teachers, but we must make it quite clear to parents who want more and more attention paid to their children and who, at the same time, relate only to a dollar evaluation of education, that their changing demands on the teaching profession must generate compensation for that same profession.

Bill 100 created a body known as the Education Relations Commission whose main function is in the area of negotiations between teacher and school board. If indeed, the present confrontation between teacher and school board has developed into a confrontation between teacher and parent, then we must consider immediately extending the terms of reference of this commission to allow it, as an independent body, to embark upon a programme to educate the public in general with respect to changing attitudes in society with a corresponding change in responsibility being placed on the teaching profession.

This commission must have reasonable support and membership from teachers, school boards, the Ministry of Education and members of the public in order to inform the public of the problems that exist. It is only in this way that we are going to meet the demands of the future and avoid the situation which has presently developed, that is, legislating teachers back into the classroom, with the result that there is less than complete accord with the spirit of the legislation and the spirit that we have grown to accept from the profession itself, namely, 100 per cent effort in the development of our children.

As I indicated at the outset, this confrontation between teachers and school boards seems really to represent confrontation between parents and teachers and, as leaders of our community, we must immediately employ the tools at our disposal to prevent the continuing escalation of this problem and, by educating our constituents to the changing responsibilities on all sides, we may thereby improve the quality of life in our province.

**Mr. Lane:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take part in this Throne Speech debate and I would like again to congratulate you and your Deputy Speaker on the very fine job you and he continue to do in this House for the members sometimes, I'm sure, under very trying circumstances.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) and his predecessor for the assistance they have given in my attempts to get sufficient rent-geared-to-income housing for the senior citizens in the great riding of Algoma-Mani-

toulin. We in this province owe a great deal to our senior citizens. They are largely responsible for the high quality of life we now enjoy. One of my greatest concerns is that we provide well for these people in the sunset years of their lives, and I think the place to start is to guarantee the availability of proper housing for them.

I also thank the Minister of Housing for his concern and assistance in providing funding to acquire and develop land for housing purposes in Elliot Lake. After many years of uncertainty, Elliot Lake is now fast becoming a very stable, fast-growing town and, of course, it is becoming a problem for housing to keep pace with the development of the mines, and we are working there with some success in expanding the secondary industries that are already there.

[4:45]

Elliot Lake, like other areas in my riding, is trying to attract new industry. One industry I think that could locate there and be well founded is Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. This industry could be located in Spanish or Blind River; it would greatly enhance the economy of this area and, if it was properly built and operated, I think it shouldn't cause any health problems.

I have also got another secondary industry interested now in locating in my riding. It is too early at this time to elaborate on this particular industry but if it goes ahead, I will be in touch with several municipalities that could accommodate it. In the past, I think we have done too much talking about secondary industries and not done enough real work on it. It is my hope that we can accomplish more and maybe do less talking about it in the future.

Much has been said regarding restraints on spending, and I think that we all agree that something must be done if we are going to get rid of the dreaded disease known as inflation. Our only disagreement, it seems, is how best to do the job. Many people agree that restraints are good, but as soon as it touches our communities, the fat is in the fire and we members receive letters, telegrams and telephone calls advising us to do this or not to do that. There is no doubt in my mind that there will be some disagreement, as time goes on, as to how this job should be done. I think the main thing is that we get the job done.

I have been concerned in recent weeks by the amount of criticism and abuse that our Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) has taken from the opposition parties in the

House and the public. While I do not altogether agree with the method being used to control the spending in the ministry—in my opinion there are other methods that could have been used to save money without impairing our health service—

**Mr. Cassidy:** Why don't you vote against him tonight for the way he has abused the health system?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has the floor.

**Mr. Lane:** I do want to say that the hon. member for Muskoka is, without a doubt, one of the best Ministers of Health this province has ever had.

**Mr. Cassidy:** The competition wasn't that great.

**Mr. Lane:** And while he may not always be right—who is?—one thing for sure is that he puts his job before himself, and he has the guts to stand up and say and do what he feels must be done. This is a quality that is sadly lacking in many people in public office today. I am sure all of the members of this House wish the hon. minister a quick and complete return to good health and that we will soon see his smiling face and hear his quick wit and sense of humour, which we have come to enjoy so much in this House.

Much has been said in recent weeks by members of the opposition about the people of this province wanting an election. As far as I can see all the people of this province want is good government.

**Mr. Bain:** They are not getting it.

**Mr. Davison:** That is why we want an election.

**Mr. Lane:** Those who want an election are those who have discovered that they elected the wrong person last September and would like to have an opportunity to undo this.

**Mr. Bain:** How about the constituents of your riding?

**Mr. Lane:** They are quite satisfied.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That's not what they tell us.

**Mr. Kennedy:** They have got very good service; he's a fine member.

**Mr. Lane:** Our people are entitled to a good government, and in a minority situation that responsibility rests on all parties.



I am very concerned about the increased costs of basic commodities in the north as compared to the south. An obvious commodity is gasoline. I had hoped to get a hearing of the royal commission in Espanola, but I understand the commission went to Kenora and Kapuskasing; in so doing they felt they had the feeling of the problem in the north, and they very well may have. In any event, on April 21 final arguments will be heard and anyone wishing to put forth an argument can be heard, starting at 10 a.m., at 151 Bloor Street West, here in Toronto.

The equalization of the prices of gasoline and other basic commodities in the north is just one of the inequalities which bother me about service to the north.

In my riding, there are eight Indian reserves. I feel I work hard to try to improve the lot of our native people. We are working together with them. We have improved the quality of life to quite a degree, I think. Yet, in spite of this, seven young people on the Wikwemikong reserve took their own lives last year. One of the problems is that white people do not understand the lifestyle of the native people, and they should have more direct input themselves.

These and other problems peculiar to the north have prompted me to propose a Ministry of Northern Ontario. This is not an administrative type of ministry but a co-ordinating type of ministry which would work together with every ministry in the government to take the government to the people in the north—to research, investigate, develop it and assist the vast areas of the north without local councils to receive help or attention.

Of course, we would allow our native people to have a direct pipeline into the Ministry of Northern Ontario. Perhaps then we can better understand the desired lifestyle of our native people and not try to force on them a lifestyle that is frustrating and non-productive.

I am pleased to say that my proposal has received a great deal of support in the north. I quote from the Jan. 29 editorial in the Sudbury Star which reads:

The idea is sound. It was a mistake in 1972 to merge the fledgling Department of Northern Affairs with the super Ministry of Natural Resources. In the two-year life of the Northern Affairs, it was a highly visible ministry. True, it shared its bed with the Department of Mines (full title was the Department of Mines and Northern Affairs) but it was a clearer link than now

exists. Mr. Lane therefore will find no lack of northern support for the principle of a separate ministry. Indeed, his suggestion goes even a step ahead of the old concept since he would have one independent of any other branch.

[They conclude by saying:]—

Keep it up, Mr. Lane. It makes sense.

The Jan. 8, 1976, editorial in the Elliot Lake Standard reads, "John Lane, MPP, is on our new year's honour list. He deserves a bouquet for his recent proposal concerning a Ministry of Northern Ontario."

The editorial feature page of the Espanola Standard Feb. 5, 1976, says, "The proposed Ministry of Northern Ontario which is being strongly pressed by John Lane, MPP, Algoma-Manitoulin, is being well received."

I could go on at great length reading from editorials from northern weeklies. However, I will not take the time of the House. I just want to get the message across that the idea is sound and would be welcomed by the people of the north.

**Mr. Lewis:** But you know that the government has rejected it. Tried it and rejected it.

**Mr. Lane:** Members can imagine my surprise when I picked up the local newspaper a few weeks ago and read the headline, "Lewis Raps Lane." The article goes on to say that Mr. Lewis disagrees with me for various reasons.

Another article, written by the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), states that the proposal would cost \$1 million and makes no sense.

It amazes me that in the House here last year, we were hearing about the great government auto insurance plan in BC. We know how that turned out; it was a real failure, of course. We also heard the opposition members talk about the BC cow-calf stabilization programme and how good it was. Yet our government provided a more useful programme for our farmers.

**Mr. Bain:** You didn't say a better programme, though, did you?

**Mr. Lane:** Since that time, of course, Mr. Barrett and company has been taken to the cleaners so we don't hear any more about that.

**Mr. Cassidy:** They are giving away calves in eastern Ontario.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The member for Algoma-Manitoulin has the floor.

**Mr. Warner:** You should have made this speech in Victoria.

**Mr. Lane:** What I can't understand is why we haven't heard more about the Department of Northern Saskatchewan. This ministry evolved under an NDP government.

**Mr. Lewis:** Yes, but it has a million people involved.

**Mr. Lane:** I have a report, the 1974-1975 report, on my desk. As a matter of fact, I have it in my hand.

**Mr. Bain:** So you admit your ideas are based on NDP philosophy.

**Mr. Lane:** Mr. Bowerman, the minister, says it is doing a tremendous job in northern Saskatchewan. As a matter of fact, just a very small quote out of the report says, "Many new innovative programmes have been implemented . . . improvements have been made to existing ones . . . advancement is far beyond any level previously contemplated in the north."

**Mr. Lewis:** That's because it's an NDP government. It wouldn't happen here.

**Mr. Lane:** Mr. Speaker, this is the very thing that I am proposing for northern Ontario.

**Mr. Bain:** An NDP government.

**Mr. Lane:** Yes we have the NDP members knocking the very thing that worked under their government in northern Saskatchewan.

**Mr. Lewis:** You weren't here when Allan Lawrence was Minister of Northern Affairs. It was a disaster. They took a Toronto member and made him Minister of Northern Affairs.

**Mr. Lane:** The trouble with you people is you don't want the problem to go away.

**Mr. Lewis:** It flopped.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Lane:** You want to keep on making votes on it but you don't want the problem to go away. You are always negative, never positive.

**Mr. Lewis:** Just take your ministries and get them to do a job. You don't need a separate one.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That's right.

**Mr. Lane:** As I see it, the only reason the NDP members are against any proposal is they are afraid it will work.

**An hon. member:** What about your own government?

**Mr. Lane:** And the people of the north will appreciate the improved service.

**Mr. Lewis:** Come on. Your own government rejected it. They said it was a ridiculous idea.

**Mr. Lane:** I say to the members of the opposition party that if given an opportunity this proposal will work.

**Mr. Bain:** Does your government support it?

**Mr. Lane:** If, by chance, sometime in the future the people of this province make the mistake of electing an NDP government—heaven forbid that—

**Mr. Lewis:** They might. You never know.

**Mr. Lane:** —but if they did, it will work just as well for you people as it will for us—just as well. As a matter of fact, you'd probably bring it in, because you did in Saskatchewan.

**Mr. Shore:** Give it to them.

**Mr. Bain:** Elect us and find out.

**An hon. member:** That would be a disaster.

**Mr. Lane:** I say that this new ministry I'm proposing will work for any government of the day. I say to the members of the opposition, let us forget political advantages and disadvantages as politicians—

**Mr. Shore:** That's right.

**Mr. Warner:** We'll bring it in—

**Mr. Lane:** Let's work together to —

**Mr. Cassidy:** No, neither were you. It is amazing how you guys get above party when your party is slipping badly.

**Mr. Lane:** Let's work together as members for the north to improve government services and the quality of life for the people we represent. Surely this should be the first priority of us people who are elected to serve the north.



**Mr. Lewis:** You are on the government side. Do something about it.

**Mr. Lane:** That's what I'm trying to do.

**Mr. Lewis:** Speak to your cabinet minister.

**Mr. Lane:** You people are official opposition. You should be helping me, not hindering me.

**Mr. Lewis:** We have.

Interjections.

**Mr. Lane:** You are going across this country—

**Mr. Lewis:** We have helped the north.

**Mr. Lane:** The member—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Algoma-Manitoulin will please continue his speech and the others will refrain from interjections. The hon. Leader of the Opposition, please.

**Mr. Lewis:** We have helped the north.

**Mr. Lane:** You made great marks in the north because you—

**Mr. Lewis:** We have nine northern members now; that's why.

**Mr. Lane:** You talk about the problems but you don't do anything about them.

**Mr. Speaker:** We're wasting valuable time.

**Mr. Bain:** What about the government?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The member for Timiskaming.

**Mr. Lane:** Again, I want to say the NDP does not want the problem to go away. They want it to be there to make marks on the next time around, I want them to go away now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Lewis:** If you go away we'll consider it.

**Mr. Lane:** I won't go away.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Wildman:** Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to participate in this debate after the comments of my colleague from Algoma-Manitoulin regarding his proposal that we institute—or that the government institute—a ministry for northern Ontario.

**Mr. Warner:** Here comes the truth.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** You wouldn't recognize it if you met it.

**Mr. Wildman:** I think that probably the reason he's suggesting this is simply that the other ministries which are now already in existence haven't done anything for northern Ontario.

Interjections.

**Mr. Wildman:** I must agree with him in that feeling, really, because the north has been neglected for a long time by this government. That is why there are nine NDP members from the north and so few Conservative members.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That's right.

**Mr. Lewis:** It's a disgrace.

**Mr. Wildman:** I think his proposal for a ministry for the north, however, is a rather facile solution, when really what he should be doing is going after the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and all of the other ministries which are especially involved in the north to do the job they're supposed to be doing. What is he going to do if he sets up a ministry for northern Ontario?

**Mr. Lane:** We are going to package up the the problem and drop it on the minister's desk to show him what can be done.

**Mr. Lewis:** Do it now.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

Interjections.

**Mr. Wildman:** I suppose he is suggesting that because he and the other back-benchers have such a difficult time telling their ministers what should be done in the north. If they would only listen to the suggestions made over on this side of the House, perhaps they wouldn't have that same problem.

**Mr. Lane:** We don't have any problem getting to the minister. Look at my record in this House.

**Mr. Wildman:** I'm participating in this debate in support of both amendments—that of the Liberal Party and of the official opposition—to the Speech from the Throne—

**Mr. Bain:** Are the Liberals supporting the Liberal amendment?

Interjections.

**Mr. Wildman:** —even at the risk of being described as a criminal because the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) recently made a statement in which he said it would be criminal to oppose the restraint programme of this government.

**Mr. Shore:** The minister wouldn't say that, would he?

**Mr. Wildman:** Even taking into account that he had said that, I'm going to vote against the government. It's interesting that a colleague of his a few weeks ago made the comment that criticism of the government was subversive and then apologized to the House. Now the Minister of Housing not too long ago, made a statement that criticism of the restraint programme is criminal. I suppose, as a subversive and a criminal, I am voting against the government.

**Mr. Lewis:** You didn't say criminal, did you?

**Mr. Maeck:** Who called him a criminal?

**Mr. Wildman:** I didn't say I was one, now, of course.

Interjection.

**Mr. Wildman:** In good conscience, however, I just cannot support the dismantling—

Interjections.

**Mr. Wildman:** He didn't call me a criminal. He said disagreement with the restraint programme would be criminal; and I really must disagree.

[5:00]

Interjections.

**Mr. Wildman:** In good conscience Mr. Speaker, I just can't support the dismantling of our health and social service delivery system that this government has embarked upon between sessions.

In my riding the Ministry of Health ordered St. Joseph's General Hospital in Blind River to close 15 active-treatment beds. They have moderated that stance to allow 10 of those beds to be shifted to chronic care and this will make it possible for the people who would have been laid off to remain in their jobs. But they have not done anything about the rather minuscule request of the Mental Health Association of Blind River for grants such as \$45 and \$60. These

things have been effectively rejected by the ministry because the ministry has said that these kinds of things must be ruled on by community health councils; and in that area, of course, there isn't a community health council, it doesn't exist.

The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) has also made claims that the 5.5 per cent ceiling on increases for social service spending will not hurt essential programmes and that it will not increase municipal taxation. I just wonder how the government relates that to the statement just recently by Mr. Flesher, the head of welfare services in Sault Ste. Marie, that there they are \$95,000 short because of the government ceiling and that it is going to mean a great deal of money to Sault Ste. Marie taxpayers.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Wait until he sees the Soo mill rate.

**Mr. Wildman:** I am also opposing the government because in the Throne Speech there is basically nothing that deals with the issues that were major issues in my riding in the last campaign.

If anyone travels throughout Algoma they will notice the tremendous natural wealth we have and the tremendous responsibility we have to develop this wisely and to conserve it for future generations. However, when I see the actions of the Ministry of Natural Resources in the allocation of timber limits without insuring adequate returns to the people of this province, or the ministry's failure to enforce regulations to protect workers in the mines and mills from accident and disease, I question the minister's responsibility. For that matter, when he admits he has taken friends fishing in a fish sanctuary lake, I think it indicates his dedication to conservation and the enforcement of the laws and regulations that his ministry is supposed to administer.

There are many examples in my riding of the need for government activity. For instance, the need to produce jobs along the north shore of Lake Huron. That area suffers from an unemployment rate which approaches 22 per cent. There is absolutely nothing in the Throne Speech which is going to do anything about that. The suggestion that there be further concessions to the mining companies to help bring about more exploration does absolutely nothing to help those people who need jobs. It doesn't even guarantee that there is necessarily going to be more exploration.



In other areas in my riding, of course, as in the town of Wawa which is more affluent than the north shore, there is a tremendous housing shortage. The government over the last few years has spent large amounts of money in loans and grants to commercial activity in Wawa—tourist activity—which is needed, I suppose, to help the economy of the area, but it seems an awful shame to see tremendous amounts of money spent on motels when people can't find a place to stay or when they have to live in basements or second-floor apartments in what normally would be single-family dwellings.

Another issue which is of importance to my riding is agriculture. The government has again promised in the Throne Speech something to stabilize farm incomes. This year, of course, the bottom fell out of beef prices and as a result the farmers in my area have suffered. In some cases incomes are being cut in half. The government has brought in a rather inadequate, so-called stabilization plan and they have had to pay out twice as much as they first expected. Now they have ag reps going around talking to the farmers suggesting that perhaps the premium might be doubled and the poundage might be lowered, yet not even telling the farmers they are going to get the 50 cents they got this year. They are not even talking about raising it. They won't even guarantee what they got this year.

So basically, although I risk being accused of being a criminal, I have to rise in opposition to the motion for the acceptance of Her Honour's address and in support of the amendments. I will be voting against the government.

**Mr. Roy:** Mr. Speaker, I sort of looked forward to—

**Mr. Cassidy:** Enjoy it while it lasts.

**Mr. Roy:** That's better.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Before the hon. member embarks upon his address, I am just checking the time. By agreement, which is not a law of course, it looks as if there will be about six minutes left for the member for the Liberal Party and about 19 minutes for the PC party. For the NDP, there are about 15 minutes left.

**Mr. Roy:** Oh, no, no.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is if the arrangement is stuck to hard and fast. There can be some flexibility, I presume.

**Mr. Roy:** Mr. Speaker, by your calculation, we will never get to 6 o'clock, and I certainly want to make a contribution in winding that clock down. I will try to be brief in any event.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Never mind, the member on the government side isn't ready to talk yet.

**Mr. Roy:** I want to say that I have been looking forward to participating in this debate. For the first time since 1971, I have enjoyed the contributions made by certain cabinet ministers. In fact, I am overwhelmed by the attendance of government members here today, including a few cabinet ministers. I feel very privileged to be speaking in the presence of such honourable gentlemen.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Your colleagues don't like you.

**Mr. Lewis:** They don't know a compliment when they hear one.

**Mr. Roy:** I do want to express my personal congratulations to you in your functions as Speaker in this House and to say to you that if you thought things were tough in the past, I would suggest they will probably be getting tougher in the future. But I am convinced that with the co-operation of all members you have the capability. Your associate, then hon. member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) is doing a very credible task as well. He also deserves our support and congratulations. I would just issue one word of warning in this whole process, Mr. Speaker, namely, that even though we in the Liberal Party are some distance from you, please do not forget us. We are here, we are alive and we are well.

I want to say to you that in the process of enforcing the rules of the House the tendency in the past, and I don't blame you for this at all, is that there's been more enthusiasm, usually, on the part of the Speaker, to cut supplementaries or to cut any editorial comment in the question but not so much in the answers. I say to you that the great Speakers we have had, the succession of Speakers we have had at the federal level, have earned their reputation by being especially hard on the government. I say to you, Mr. Speaker, you will get support from the opposition if, once in a while when we get too much editorial comment in the answers from the ministers, there are some cutbacks made there as well.

**Mr. Shore:** We need restraint.

**Mr. Roy:** I would want to take advantage, as well, on the opportunity of speaking in this august assembly to thank the people of Ottawa East, the people who have given me the privilege to serve here again and have given me the privilege in an overwhelming fashion.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, some time back there was some attempt—and I don't say it was on the part of the government at all—there was some suggestion by the new boundaries commission to wipe out the riding of Ottawa East. You will recall that we put up certain objections to this, and in fairness to the commission—and I want to thank the people on the commission for this—they saw fit to change this.

I am told I have 13 minutes instead of six, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to thank the members of the commission who saw the light. In fact I felt the original decision of the commission seemed to have been based on rulers and on lead pencils and not on facts existing in the ridings, and too often communities were being cut up without any emphasis as to the history of the community or the composition of the community. It would have been sad indeed if the only urban riding in the province with a French-speaking majority would have not had a voice in this House, if it would have been cut up three ways, as originally proposed. So I do want to thank the members of the commission. Some people have said that we were able to save the riding for the Liberal Party, but we wouldn't say that because our approach was subjective.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That's true.

**Mr. Ruston:** We won't say that.

**Mr. Cassidy:** It would have been an NDP riding if the original boundaries were stuck to.

**Mr. Roy:** I do want to emphasize again that I'm very grateful to the voters of Ottawa East for the overwhelming support I received in the election in 1975. I do want to thank as well the people—

**Mr. Lewis:** Wasn't it nip and tuck?

**Mr. Roy:** It was tough. It was tough all the way. In fact, while I'm on the subject of Ottawa East, I should continue to say that I would hazard a guess, when I look at the money we spent in this election and the majority we obtained, that this was possibly one of the better investments, that the people who are going to get their tax credit made

a wise investment in the riding of Ottawa East.

**Mr. Cassidy:** What about the \$60,000 man?

**Mr. Roy:** We spent something like \$13,000 in this riding—\$13,104—and we obtained a majority of close to 10,000. I would think that if we were to compare this across the province this is moderation and the results are, in fact, overwhelming.

**Mr. Cassidy:** What about the \$60,000 man?

**Mr. Roy:** In fact, when I look at some of the investments made across the province, I can't say as much. I wish my colleague from Carleton, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), was here, because what a dirty trick he played on the Conservative candidate for Carleton East. The first thing he did, in an attempt to win that riding back for the Tories, was he sent down his campaign manager. That was the campaign manager who had run things down in the riding—he'd run the election for Baker down there and he had run Syd Handleman's campaign. Not only did this fellow cost the riding \$9,000 to pay him during the election, but he spent \$60,000 and he came third, a bad third. So I would say that was very unfair of the member for Carleton to send this individual down to Carleton East.

**Mr. Ruston:** Something like the NDP in my riding.

**Mr. Cassidy:** The NDP were in third place with \$86.

**Mr. Roy:** I would think that was not fair at all to spend that kind of money. I want to tell you, the figures really bear out what we were able to observe.

I notice the member for Carleton East (Ms. Gigantes) is here.

In view of the plush headquarters this individual who worked for the Conservatives was operating out of, and the advertisements on television, money was no object. I can't quite understand how this individual was really worth \$9,000 for a short campaign period like we had provincially. There's got to be a mistake. He certainly isn't worth that kind of money.

I do want to say that the Tories basically spent some considerable amount of money in all the ridings in the Ottawa area. Claude Bennett, the Minister of Industry and Tourism and member for Ottawa South, he spent \$48,996—



Mr. Cassidy: He's not worth it.

Mr. Roy: —and in the process was able to reduce his majority from about 12,000 to 2,000. The investment there, again, was questionable.

Then we look at the riding of Ottawa Centre, where Gale Kerwin spent some \$30,000, and again was some distance from being successful in that riding. Don Morrow spent, in the riding of Ottawa West—and, Don, I'll be kind.

Mr. Morrow: Look at the excellent majority, though.

Mr. Roy: I say to the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Morrow), I'll be kind with him, because I won't read the ad he had in the paper during that election, on bilingualism and the Trudeau socialists—

[5:15]

Mr. Cassidy: God save the Queen.

Mr. Samis: Rule Britannia.

Mr. Morrow: That's all right.

Mr. Roy: —and the Quebeckers who were involved in Ontario politicking. But anyway—

Mr. Morrow: The hon. member knows I didn't put in the ad.

Mr. Roy: I know. You had nothing to do with the ad. Your people got turned away, I know. And you got carried away in spending as well. Again, the member spent some \$41,000, quite a hefty investment.

Mr. Kerrio: There was no restraint in the Tory campaign.

Mr. Morrow: Look at the excellent majority though.

Interjection.

Mr. Roy: And then the minister—

Mr. Morrow: Not bad for 65,000 voters.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: How much did you spend?

Mr. Roy: How much did I spend? I will repeat it for you: \$13,104.

Mr. Morrow: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Point of order.

Mr. Morrow: The hon. member for Ottawa East must remember that Ottawa West has twice as many voters on the voters' list as Ottawa East.

Mr. Roy: You wouldn't know that.

Mr. Morrow: You have to take that into consideration, as well as the majority.

Mr. Lewis: That's a racist comment.

Mr. Roy: I want to say to the member for Ottawa West that the only time he would know there were twice as many voters would be election time, not between the elections.

Mr. Morrow: That's all I need.

Mr. Roy: In any event, then we go to the member for Carleton (Mr. Handleman).

Mr. Lewis: I hope you are running again because this time we are taking you on, my friend, in no uncertain terms.

Mr. Roy: The member for Carleton spent \$42,094 in that riding and in the process that member was able to reduce his majority from 7,000 to 600.

Mr. Morrow: It's just a myth with you people.

Mr. Roy: That was again some investment. I would point out that when I—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Your constituents thought you were going to be leader; they really did. They believed you. They thought you were going to be leader. Wait until next time.

Mr. Roy: What is that?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Your constituents thought you were going to be leader.

Mr. Roy: They thought I was going to be—? There was no question of leader at that time.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, there was.

Mr. Roy: Now that they know I've got leadership potential, watch the majority.

Mr. Samis: You said that before.

Mr. Lewis: Never mind potential; you would be better off if you were leader today.

Mr. Roy: No, don't be harsh.

I would point out as well—I can see I am not going to get very far in this speech at all in 13 minutes. I am not going to be able to say at all what I want to say. This is interesting because the member for Carleton—I could see why he could afford to spend \$42,000 because he had a number of—

Mr. Kennedy: He had money.

Interjection.

**Mr. Samis:** All the distilleries and wineries in Canada.

**Mr. Roy:** —wine companies and liquor companies which for some reason were supporting him. I am free enterprise but none of us was able to get that sort of contribution. I wonder why that is?

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Have you told Trudeau?

**Mr. Roy:** I just wonder why that is.  
Of course I have named all the ridings—

Interjection.

**Mr. Roy:** —and the final one is the riding of Carleton East where this young intelligent man, who had the ins with the Premier had spent some time in the office.

**Mr. Cassidy:** He is the \$60,000 man.

**Mr. Roy:** That's right. He was going to come in and here he is, the \$60,000 man, coming third. I really think—

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Finishing third isn't all that bad.

**Mr. Roy:** —that here we have evidence that not only have the Tories wasted money as a government—taxpayers' money—they have wasted money during the election.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Some of my best friends finished third.

**Mr. Roy:** They have operated their elections in the same way they run this government. It's a bad investment all the way through.

**Mr. Cunningham:** Just like in Hamilton Centre.

**Mr. Roy:** The final thing I would point out is that in the riding of Ottawa East, I would love to tell members how much the candidate who ran against me spent but as a lawyer I guess he didn't know the law and he didn't file his return. He hasn't filed his return yet. I am told that some people have called him up and he has admitted spending some \$20,000. He says: "I am sorry. I am only ten days late in filing a return. I will probably be charged." I say to that he will have no problems, he will defend himself, because after the election he was given his QC. Yes, he was. I was wondering what he was doing running in the—

**Mr. Samis:** It makes you wonder about lawyers, doesn't it?

**Mr. Roy:** —riding of Ottawa East. He seems like a reasonable individual yet there he is running for the Tories in Ottawa East. I thought he is either after a QC or a judgeship; either one.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Or both.

**Mr. Roy:** He got his QC and I suppose if he ran again there would be something else they would unlock. I want to thank him for the effort he made. Hopefully, the QC will help him in his defence. I expected that after the Election Commission had sent out notices to all candidates across the province saying the deadline is coming forward, he would have filed his return. He, as a lawyer who has a QC now, should have known enough to file his return in time. He did not.

**Mr. Shore:** Defend them.

**Mr. Roy:** The poor individual. Either he is going to have to be charged or prohibited from running again. I say it's unfortunate that all this money was spent—

**Mr. Samis:** Too bad we don't have a senate in Ontario.

**Mr. Roy:** —and the returns on the investments were so poor.

Interjection.

**Mr. Roy:** Mr. Speaker, I had many more things to say that I thought were of some interest to the members of the House, but I want to abide by whatever gentlemen's agreement has been arrived at here. I do want to comment briefly, though, on the efforts on the other side: I've never quite seen such a succession of ministers getting up and making a contribution to the Throne Speech debate. This is something we have never seen before.

**Mr. Cassidy:** We've never had anything but ministers.

**Mr. Roy:** Maybe I'm naive, but I sometimes think it must be Eddie Goodman who has talked to the Premier (Mr. Davis) and said, "Look, you've got to get some of your dummies out there. You've got to get them up front to take some of the flak." They got a brown envelope from that ministry and from other ministries.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** From Elie Martell



**Mr. Roy:** It's a process that I thoroughly enjoyed, listening to the ministers trying to justify their positions and telling the members here what a great job their ministry was doing. Some of them were precious. The other night I spent all evening here listening to the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen); I think it is sad that I should only have 13 minutes when I sat here for about half an hour listening to the Minister of Revenue—

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Don't talk. That leapfrog leprechaun from Renfrew spent 2½ hours.

**Mr. Roy:** —telling us how well the flow charts were working and how well the computers were operating. That was about as interesting as telling us how he put his pants on in the morning.

**Mr. Lewis:** Actually, when you think of Arthur Meen, that would be interesting.

**Mr. Roy:** I'm not sure whether it would be more interesting than the computers.

**Mr. Lewis:** He might have difficulty about which end to start at.

**Mr. Roy:** Anyway, we've had a succession of ministers talking about this—and I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that forced to close when I'm in full flight; I would really like to get wound up in this process—

**Mr. Shore:** Keep going.

**Mr. Roy:** Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the Liberal Party in Ontario, my colleagues and I, are alive and well. We have had a few problems in the last week, we're going to correct the situation—

**Mr. Martel:** That is the understatement of the year.

**Mr. Roy:** —and we're going to operate on an even keel. Mr. Speaker, I can say this: When this was going on, I was away on a holiday, so I can't take any of the credit for it. But as bad as I might feel, all I have to do is come back in the House, look across the way and I feel much better. I really do. And I want to say that we're alive and well. Unfortunately, we're going to have to keep the Tories in power for some time longer—

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** You are decisive.

**Mr. Roy:** —because we feel that now is not a good time, and the voters want to see minority government work, so we'll support the government for a while.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That is a flip-flop.

**Mr. Moffatt:** We heard these excuses before.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order.

**Mr. Roy:** I say to my colleagues to the right, if they were so keen in supporting a non-confidence motion, why didn't they support us in the fall.

**Mr. Moffatt:** That is extremely weak.

Interjections.

**Mr. Roy:** Mr. Speaker, we will continue making a contribution here, and I'm very pleased to have participated. Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Mississauga South.

**Mr. Ruston:** The NDP aren't going to vote tonight.

**Mr. Martel:** We will be here—every one of us.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Mississauga South. Order, please.

**Mr. Lewis:** If we had supported you in the fall, you would have withdrawn the amendment.

**Mr. Roy:** Oh no, no, no.

**Mr. Lewis:** Oh, yes, yes, yes. We didn't want to embarrass you.

**Mr. Speaker:** We are wasting valuable time.

**Mr. Roy:** Not at all, we were very serious. We stuck to it.

**Mr. Moffatt:** And now you are stuck with it.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member's speech is over. Thank you.

**Mr. Kennedy:** I am pleased that the hon. members opposite reminded us four times that the Liberal Party is alive and well, because we need to be told almost repeatedly; we would never guess.

**Mr. Ruston:** You are pretty dull over there, Doug.

**Mr. Kennedy:** First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend you and your deputy on your election to office, and on the excellent job you are doing in what is a most difficult job; it just doesn't occur at one point over

the course of a session, but day by day. I pay tribute to you and your assistants who have done so well.

I am delighted with the opportunity to participate in the Throne Speech debate—

**Mr. Martel:** The giveaway programme all those years.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Mr. Speaker, in my view, the people of Ontario realize that we face some critical economic and social choices in the coming years—

**Mr. Martel:** As a result of 30 years of Tory government.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Settle down and listen.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Sudbury East.

**Mr. Shore:** Elie, be nice and quiet.

**Mr. Kennedy:** In my view, the people of Ontario realize that we face some critical economic and social choices in the coming years. As the Throne Speech outlines, we have already initiated that process. We have already started down that road through the various types of commitments which we have made in our restraint programme. Hon. members opposite claim a lack of substance, a lack of perspective, in this most important document. I would suggest they take another look, a closer examination of what the Throne Speech is about. While the major emphasis centres upon the need to restrain government expenditures, to interject a reasonable sense of control and direction over the growth of the public sector, the government's Throne Speech doubly emphasizes that our restraint programme will be carried out in a sophisticated and responsible manner.

That means the programme cannot be undertaken in a willy-nilly unplanned approach.

**Mr. McClellan:** Tell that to Taylor.

**Mr. Kennedy:** It means financial and budgetary limits must be applied equitably—

**Mr. McClellan:** Tell that to the Minister of Community and Social Services.

**Mr. Kennedy:** —in the areas of social services, health care and education.

**Mr. Martel:** Thirty years of mismanagement.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Which means that restraints must be applied carefully, so as not to under-

mine or alter drastically the essential services provided in these three significant policy areas.

**Mr. Ferrier:** What about mental health in Ontario?

**Mr. Kennedy:** It is not an easy task. However—

Interjection.

**Mr. Kennedy:** —it is important to realize the restraint programme must be completely carried out. Otherwise we will lose sight of the real object of the exercise—

**Mr. Martel:** Shouldn't have given away so much last year in election year.

**Mr. Kennedy:** —which is the beating back of inflation.

Interjections.

**Mr. Kennedy:** I must say that hon. members opposite are completely missing the real point of the restraint programme.

Interjections.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Every day since the federal government on Thanksgiving brought forth its new economic controls programme, the opposition parties in this Legislature have failed to see or understand that inflation, which is a continual and constant erosion of people's personal savings and consequently the weakening of the purchasing power of the Canadian dollar, have meant truly harsh and real sacrifices to those people most affected by inflation.

**Mr. Young:** Why didn't you think of that four years ago?

**Mr. Kennedy:** You are not thinking of it yet. Both the New Democratic and Liberal parties demonstrate their absence of understanding by insisting that this province establish its own provincial anti-inflation board.

**Mr. Martel:** Remember you tried to buy the province.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Could we have fewer interjections? Thank you.

**Mr. Martel:** He is misleading the House.

**Mr. Kennedy:** By stressing the unconstitutionality of the legislation, they miss the real point, not appreciating the concerns of ordinary Canadians or for that matter the citizens of this province. As far as the question of constitutionality is concerned, the



federal government decided to legislate the price and income controls on the basis of the peace, order and good government provisions of the BNA Act. While the federal government can be criticized for moving at the 11th hour on these economic problems, at least it had the good sense to take hold and try to stop the general drift in our economic affairs, belated though it is.

Certainly the public record shows that the Premier (Mr. Davis) of this province urged as early as April, 1974, that a federal-provincial conference on the number one priority of inflation be held in this country. He repeated that at the Prince Edward Island conference, if memory serves me right, in July of the same year.

Mr. Warner: He always talks a good fight.

Mr. Kennedy: Before developing my remarks for this Throne Speech debate I went over some of the arguments used by the official opposition in its justification for wanting a provincial anti-inflation board. From their presentations, members of the NDP appear to be arguing for a regional approach in solving the problem of inflation.

Interjection.

Mr. Kennedy: Yes, you did. They appear to be rejecting the national dimensions of inflationary pressures—

Mr. Wildman: You are talking about the Liberals.

Mr. Kennedy: —telling the voting public that the real origins of problem-solving on the inflationary front, the real levers of power for controlling inflation, lie in the capacity of the provincial government, and specifically Ontario.

[5:30]

Mr. Swart: You should do something about auto insurance.

Mr. Kennedy: Quite frankly, I find this approach most disturbing and thoughtless, and I say this because all the members have to do is look beyond the borders of Ontario. Recently I had the opportunity to attend the one-day conference of the Ontario Economic Council. We listened to an eminent American economist, Dr. Paul McCracken, Dr. McCracken played a leading role, both as an official and as an academic, in the development of the recent economic policy in the United States.

He spoke to the gathering on the topic of government expenditures on a renaissance of discipline. The essence of his address focussed on the rising public concern about the impact and the usefulness of government expenditures.

He pointed out that this concern transcends national boundaries. He questioned the rapid expansion of the public sector in the majority of industrialized western democracies. He alluded to Canada's debt ratio going from approximately 26 per cent to over 43 per cent in the past 20 years. That is a phenomenal rate of growth that, in effect, has produced unfulfilled expectations in the minds of many people, regardless of their political affiliation.

Mr. Warner: You are guilty—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Kennedy: In Ontario, we've been a part of that historical development. Changing and growing populations and rising standards of living have placed greater attention and stress on the provision of human needs. Thus, in turn, it became necessary to expand both the social and economic structure of this province. Our attitudes to these economic and social trends were generally acceptable. They were characterized by the general feeling that these massive expenditures of public funds were required for the well-being of our province. But those attitudes are now changing dramatically. This abrupt shift in public concern from one of acceptance of greater government involvement in our lives to one of questioning that very involvement, is very similar to our attitudes towards the use of energy.

The majority of members of this Legislature accepted the premise that Canada was not wanting for natural gas or oil during the Fifties and Sixties of this century. In fact, we believed that our energy reserves were in abundance so much so we could export millions of cubic feet of gas and hundred of thousands of gallons of crude oil to the American market without affecting our future industrial strategy for this country. But that now has changed. The watershed year was 1973 when the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, determined that the world price for crude oil was completely insufficient. They created the energy cartel and tripled the price of crude in the short period of only 18 months.

We can all dispute the benefits or disadvantages of these developments. To my mind, it is a time-wasting effort. It is water

under the bridge; it has happened. Now we're being asked to revise expectations, reassess our attitudes and reorder our priorities.

What is most important in our own lives is the shift which has gone undetected by members opposite. The nature of that change is so radical that it's particularly hard for my friends over there to grasp. Instead of reacting to the specific interest of special groups, the NDP should take a leaf out of the book of their fellow socialists in Great Britain. When their country was racked by high rates of inflation with hundreds of thousands of people out of work, the Labour government—

**Mr. Deans:** If you raise the volume, you will drive the last Liberal out of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Kennedy:** —of Prime Minister Wilson put into effect a prices and income policy last summer.

**Mr. Deans:** Now you have done it, there is not a single Liberal in his seat.

**Mr. Kennedy:** They know what's coming, so they've vacated. Before the policy was implemented, the British were suffering inflation at the rate of no less than 25 per cent.

**Mr. Martel:** They got rid of the Tories.

**Mr. Wildman:** The Tories were in power.

**Mr. Ferrier:** It was the Tories who caused the problems for Great Britain.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Now some six or eight months later, the very economic controls to which the trade union movement in Great Britain was so adamantly opposed at the outset have helped to bring that crushing rate of inflation down to about 15 per cent. So said a CBC documentary two or three weeks ago.

**Mr. Martel:** It was the Tories who got them in trouble, though.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Their socialist colleagues in Great Britain have grasped the lessons to be learned from the impact of inflation.

**Mr. Martel:** It was the Tories who got them in trouble—they were in power.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

Interjections.

**Mr. Kennedy:** The other day, Roy Jenkins, the Home Secretary — he's in the socialist wing—

**Mr. Cassidy:** Good man, too.

**Mr. Angus:** It was the Tories who screwed it up, though.

**Mr. Kennedy:** —made an interesting observation. He said, "There's no future—"

Interjection.

**Mr. Kennedy:** If you will listen for a minute, you'll learn something and maybe it'll change the attitude you have toward the people of Ontario.

**Mr. Cassidy:** We have been listening for four years and never learned a thing from you guys.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Mr. Jenkins said, "There is no future in believing that we can let public expenditure, as a proportion of the national income, rise significantly further. Either the taxation or the inflationary consequences will be unacceptable."

So said Mr. Jenkins.

Put in simpler terms, Mr. Jenkins is just reiterating a basic fact of life for all governments: Namely, that ever-larger government, mushrooming bureaucracy and massive tax-gobbling programmes simply will not do to meet our present challenges.

**Mr. Ferrier:** You are trying to pass off the mushrooming of government bureaucracy the Tories have created, are you?

**Mr. Kennedy:** The answer lies not in the greater expansion of government services but rather in limiting that growth and in starting to evolve the more efficient use of existing resources. That is the dilemma which I see faces my friends in the NDP. They have a sincere commitment and belief that the public sector has the capacity to provide the answers for all those people in society who are less fortunate from the standpoint of material things.

**Mr. Swart:** Your system isn't working that well, then.

**Mr. Kennedy:** The PC government of this province has acted in good conscience by using government resources to help those who are disadvantaged—the disabled, the blind and those who require a second chance to get back on their feet and contribute to our society.

**Mr. Warner:** Sure. Tell the Children's Aid Societies that this year.



**Mr. Kennedy:** A secondary dilemma facing the NDP—perhaps in the long term it will become the most important dilemma to be resolved—is that by advocating the expansion of government, by spending more money than it is taking in, government becomes the very agency which destroys any real hope for the very ones the government is supposed to be helping. That's a paradox, a real irony.

Argentina is an outstanding example of the harsh reality of inflation. Faced with inflation rates of over 330 per cent for the past year, the armed forces overthrew the Peronist government.

**Mr. Wildman:** Are you suggesting that here?

**Mr. Kennedy:** What motivated them to do that, when the government was ushered in on a great wave of popularity about three years earlier? The military does grasp for power; we won't deny that that's a factor but an even stronger strategic consideration is to centre on what would happen if there had been no intervention. Possibly another one of the NDP's respected socialist colleagues in Great Britain, Michael Foot, who ran as a candidate, put it more succinctly. In a recent paper, Mr. Foot said that not bringing the economy under control in the United Kingdom would mean, in the long run, the loss of individual freedom and the eventual collapse of Parliamentary government—

**Mr. Wildman:** He was talking about controlling industry, though.

**Mr. Kennedy:** —as it has been mothered and fostered in that country and spread throughout the world. If you fellows would follow that example, your attitudes here might change.

**Mr. Warner:** Yes. We are talking about controlling prices as well as wages. All you want is controlled wages.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Kennedy:** The reasons for the military intervention in Argentina may be complex, I don't know, but the conditions which led up to that intervention are frightening. An article from the Sunday, March 28 edition of the New York Times—

**Mr. Martel:** You spent a billion dollars trying to win an election last year.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Order, please.

**Mr. Kennedy:** —describes the economic conditions of Argentina in which hundreds of people made a huge profit on the exchange rate of the peso to the dollar. The official exchange rate was 140; the black market was about 340 and that's the way the black market took off.

Interjection.

**Mr. Kennedy:** There was a lot of margin in the exchange operations.

Interjection.

**Mr. Kennedy:** One asks why were these economic conditions allowed to persist? They weren't.

**Mr. Martel:** It was the Tories who borrowed from Germany, too, wasn't it?

**Mr. Kennedy:** There was the overtaking of the Peronist government by the military. We don't want to go that route. We don't want to follow the course the United Kingdom was on in its steps down the garden path of inflation before we really put restraints on ourselves.

**Mr. Deans:** Who wrote this?

**Mr. Warner:** You talk about every country but this one.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Deans:** Be honest with us, who wrote that?

**Mr. Warner:** Are you going to get around to Ontario?

**Mr. Kennedy:** The whole rationale for the restraint programme in Ontario centres on the control of inflation.

**Mr. Moffatt:** He drove John Rhodes out of the House.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Any member of this House who argues that we in this government have concocted a phoney issue in dealing with inflation is mistaken.

**Mr. Ferrier:** Why didn't they close the hospitals in your riding?

**Mr. Deans:** You have dealt with it in the opposite way from which a sensible, fair person would.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Kennedy:** We are not out to bludgeon the people who are on welfare and those truly in need of welfare. We are not out to deny the sick access to hospital beds—

**Mr. Deans:** Just because you say it doesn't make it so, you know.

**Mr. Kennedy:** —and those who raise this question are simply becoming emotional over the restraint programme.

**Mr. Deans:** Go speak to the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman).

**Mr. Warner:** You just put 5,000 out of work.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Kennedy:** It is not warranted. No matter how often that topic rises opposite, it is not warranted.

**Mr. Deans:** Talk to Larry Grossman and—

**Mr. Warner:** Who built it?

**Mr. Kennedy:** It is just that you refuse to face the realities of inflation. The members opposite are on all sides; at least you are fairly consistent in supporting the ongoing rise of inflation.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Mr. Speaker, we don't have all the answers in trying to beat back inflation. We believe that members opposite could have some sensible and useful answers in implementing a most useful and difficult task—restraining government expenditures—without affecting the basic overall service provided in health care, education or social welfare.

**Mr. Warner:** An answer to 30 years of Tory ineptitude.

**Mr. Kennedy:** I would appeal and do appeal for both opposition parties to re-examine this, and come forward with some specific and responsible solutions instead of engaging continually in rhetoric—

**Mr. Martel:** You are not for real.

**Mr. Deans:** After it has happened.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Sock it to'em.

**Mr. Kennedy:** —rhetoric that is not constructive, that is not helpful, and will not be of help in getting us over this time of economic difficulty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Monsieur l'Orateur,—

**Mr. Moffatt:** Why are you leaving over there?

**Mr. Cassidy:** —je vais faire un discours qui sera peut-être très politique mais malheureusement qui ne serait pas compris par beaucoup des députés qui sont avec nous aujourd'hui. Je crois que c'est désirable que l'un des discours de ce débat soit en français, l'autre langue officielle de cette province. Alors j'ai quelques mots à dire en général et j'aimerais bien parler un peu des deux problèmes qui affectent l'éducation en français de nos franco-ontariens et aussi de nos gens de langue anglaise dans la ville d'Ottawa.

Dans le Nouveau Parti Démocratique, M. l'Orateur, nous sommes déçus que le Parti Libéral de l'Ontario a décidé de ne pas procéder avec leur intention de forcer une élection à la conclusion du débat sur le discours du trône.

**An hon. member:** Very good, Mike.

**Mr. Cassidy:** C'est du bon français, oui. Alors les Libéraux ont changé de position si souvent dans le passé, M. l'Orateur et maintenant ils vont reculer encore une fois. Leur chef était si courageux le jour, quand il présentait son amendement qui serait supporté par le Parti Néodémocrate mais deux jours après, après son petit jeu de tennis il était si timide. Il paraît que M. Smith manque maintenant la confiance de son caucus, qu'il a eu un petit discours et puis qu'il a changé sa position.

Peut-être les Libéraux ont pensé que le Nouveau Parti Démocratique était pas sérieux en présentant des alternatives au programme du gouvernement et en déclarant que nous étions prêts à les combattre dans une élection sur les problèmes, les programmes, les questions majeures de découpage sur le service social et sur la santé.

Alors tant pis. Le NPD sait depuis longtemps que les libéraux étaient un parti d'opportunisme, un parti qui manque de principes et que c'est un parti qui manque de positions fixes et qui change sa position d'un jour à l'autre.

**Mr. Roy:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker. He is being very offensive there, very offensive and I think unparliamentary toward this party.

**Mr. Moffatt:** You should have heard him before you came in.



**Mr. Cassidy:** Je voudrais dire, M. l'Orateur que ce n'est pas vrai. It's not true what he's saying about me.

[5:45]

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair feels he is very parliamentary. We may differ with his views, though, on both sides of the House. The hon. member will continue.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Si je ne suis pas à l'ordre, M. l'Orateur, je suis certain que vous me l'indiquerez.

Ce changement, cet opportunisme du Parti Libéral n'a jamais été plus évident que dans les événements des récentes semaines. Le député d'Ottawa est était absent en vacances à Miami, n'est-ce pas? A Sarasota, oui, en Floride. Ce qui est plus important et qui nous trouble bien plus c'est le changement de position du Parti Libéral, le gouvernement minoritaire du Premier Ministre (M. Davis) a gagné maintenant plusieurs mois de survie. Les Libéraux évidemment ne sont pas en position de défaire le gouvernement. Au moins jusqu'à l'automne et peut-être jusqu'en 1977 ils vont supporter le gouvernement sans aucun regard aux effets de ses programmes sur la population de cette province.

Ce n'est pas la position du Nouveau Parti Démocratique. Quand notre chef (M. Lewis) a proposé notre amendement de manque de confiance dans le débat sur le discours du trône, c'était bien plus que la motion traditionnelle proposée par l'opposition dans un système parlementaire. Nous avions à considérer, vu la situation minoritaire si nous voulions précipiter un élection ou non. Notre résolution était rédigée pour être acceptable. à tous les députés de l'opposition, ci-inclus les députés du Parti Libéral. Nous étions préparés pour une campagne électorale et nous continuons de croire que ce serait plus désirable de voter en mai que de laisser les conservateurs au pouvoir jusqu'à l'automne ou jusqu'à l'an prochain.

Ce qui est arrivé à Queen's Park, M. Orateur, c'est que l'esprit de coopération offert par le gouvernement dans les mois suivant élection de septembre a été remplacé par un esprit de confrontation. Dans la situation de gouvernement minoritaire, il nous semble que la coopération est obligatoire. Mais en actualité le gouvernement a tourné le dos sur l'opposition et sur la Législature depuis Noël. Ils ne sont pas simplement anti-coopératifs, ils sona aussi pas démocratiques

Dans la dernière semaine de la session d'avant Noël, le trésorier (M. McKeough)

a commencé le programme d'économie qui résulte maintenant en des découpages sauvages pour les services sociaux et les services de santé. Vous vous souvenez peut-être, M. l'Orateur, que c'était je crois le 17 ou le décembre, juste une couple de jours avant la fin de la session, que les plans du gouvernement ont été dévoilés. Puis le ministre de la Santé, (M. F. S. Miller) commençait en janvier et en février à fermer des hôpitaux et obligeait environ 4000 employés à démissionner.

Des membres du cabinet ont fait une tournée dans la province pour informer les municipalités et les commissions scolaires que le régime provincial de coopération fiscale était terminé et qu'elles seraient obligées de hausser leurs taxes foncières d'environ \$150 à \$200 par an pour chaque contribuable, pour chaque propriété, chaque maison et chaque appartement en 1976. Finalement le ministre des Services sociaux (M. Taylor) a fait son tour de la province pour informer les municipalités et les agences de services sociaux que des services essentiels comme l'aide à l'enfance, les garderies et les foyers pour les personnes âgées seraient coupés, qu'ils allaient subir un découpage dans le budget et qu'il avait lui aussi, comme ministre, l'intention d'obliger toute mère de famille recevant l'assistance sociale à travailler même si c'était à temps partiel et même si elle avait des enfants petits à la maison. Voici le programme.

Tout cela s'est fait sans consultation avec la Législature, parce que la Législature n'était presque pas en session sauf la mini-session de deux jours en janvier.

Le gouvernement a élaboré son programme de réduction des dépenses pendant une période de presque trois mois, sans consulter les représentants élus des citoyens de l'Ontario. Puis le discours du trône, que nous débattons aujourd'hui, a parlé dans un ton réactionnaire de la détermination du gouvernement de réduire la qualité de vie de notre province avec une attaque sur les gens âgés, pauvres et faibles.

Dans cette situation, il nous paraît que c'est inutile de continuer avec le gouvernement minoritaire. Nous croyons que très peu de constructif sera fait. Le gouvernement ne veut plus de consultation avec l'opposition ou avec le public. L'autre jour, par exemple, M. l'Orateur, j'ai entendu le ministre des Affaires Commerciales et du Consommateur nous dire que c'était inutile de se présenter en des manifestations devant la Législature parce que cela n'avait aucune action sur le gouvernement.

Alors inutile de dire à ce ministre, M. Handelman, et les autres ministres que la raison pour laquelle les gens viennent dénoncer devant la Législature c'est quand ils ont essayé toutes autres sortes de moyens d'influencer, peut-être écouter le gouvernement sans aucun effet.

En plus, nous dans le Nouveau Parti Démocratique croyons que le gouvernement a fait une erreur fondamentale en mesurant l'opinion des citoyens de cette province. Evidemment personne ne s'oppose au principe que les dépenses du gouvernement doivent être freinées. C'est aussi évident que si les gens de la province avaient le choix, de ne pas avoir une élection, même si la dernière élection avait coûté \$400,000, \$500,000, \$600,000.

Mais dans la situation qui existe, M. l'Orateur, c'est un peu différent. Ce qui nous trouble c'est que nous sommes arrivés dans cette province à un déficit de deux milliards de dollars en Ontario à cause d'un manque de contrôle sur les dépenses par le même gouvernement conservateur qui se présente maintenant comme le gouvernement d'économie.

Ce qui nous trouble c'est que le gouvernement a lancé ces restrictions sans consultation. Le gouvernement veut détruire la qualité des services sociaux avec des découpages inconsidérés. Nous sommes troublés que le gouvernement ignore les dépenses qu'il fait pour aider les grandes corporations en même temps que les services les plus essentiels aux gens qui sont très pauvres, comme nos personnes âgées sont retirés. Nous sommes troublés parce que le gouvernement ferme des hôpitaux et coupe les budgets des hôpitaux en même temps qu'il ignore l'abus des laboratoires privés, tandis qu'il donne une augmentation de cinquante six millions de dollars en salaires à nos médecins, ou en même temps qu'il permet des opérations chirurgicales qui ne sont pas nécessaires et qui coûtent chaque année une quarantaine de millions de dollars.

En plus c'est un gouvernement qui continue d'ignorer les problèmes que nous avons soulevés à la dernière élection—le logement qui est abordable, la perte de nos terres agricoles, l'énergie, la santé. La qualité de notre vie subit une attaque primordiale de la part du gouvernement et nous regrettons beaucoup que le Parti Libéral a décidé, pour des raisons strictement partisans, de laisser au pouvoir le gouvernement conservateur—

Mr. Roy: Vous devez regarder la résolution de votre confrère, résolution numéro quatre.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Roy: Les gens de la province ne veulent pas d'élection.

Mr. Cassidy: M. l'Orateur, dans la dernière élection, le parti Néo-démocrate a proposé des programmes très positifs pour assurer le logement abordable pour trouver des solutions aux problèmes du coût du logis de la perte de notre patrimoine agricole, et sur les autres sujets que je viens de mentionner.

Les problèmes soulevés lors de la dernière élection n'ont pas été résolus, pas même considérés par le gouvernement et c'est pour cela que si, par hasard, l'élection était déclenchée ce soir, nous l'accueillerons. Nous sommes prêts si c'est nécessaire et nous désirons bien avoir l'option du grand public de cette province parce que nous croyons aussi que le public est prêt pour une élection, qu'après une couple de semaines de considération de qui a déclenché cette élection, nous retournions aux questions primordiales qui résultaient dans la défaite du gouvernement conservateur dans la dernière élection.

M. l'Orateur j'aimerais bien ajouter quelques mots sur d'autres problèmes qui sont très importants pour la population francophone et aussi anglophone de cette province.

L'une c'est la question de l'école secondaire française dans les régions d'Essex et de Windsor. Nous avons une situation à Windsor, où après de grandes pressions par le ministre de l'Éducation, la politique de la province d'assurer l'éducation en français pourtant où vous avez un bon nombre de francophones qui peuvent en bénéficier, a été accepté par la Commission scolaire d'Essex.

Ils ont fait un accord informel et coopératif avec la Commission scolaire de Windsor de bâtir une école française telle que celle qui existe dans la région d'Ottawa, au nord de la province, à Toronto, même dans la région de Niagara.

Mais voici que dans les dernières semaines cet accord a été rejeté par la Commission scolaire d'Essex. Ils ont passé une résolution pour dire qu'ils ne veulent pas continuer avec le projet de construire une école secondaire française. Ils ont basé cette décision sur un préjudice contre les francophones, et ils ont rejeté un accord fait avec le gouvernement et avec le ministre de l'Éducation (M. Wells) selon lequel la commission scolaire avait accepté a déjà bâti deux extensions à des écoles anglaises dans la région sans maintenant continuer à conclure son obligation de bâtir une école secondaire française.

L'autre jour, lundi de la semaine dernière, en effet, la commission a décidé de procéder



avec une option pour acheter un terrain pour construire une école secondaire. Mais c'est évident, même si la surpopulation des écoles secondaires qui existent, justifie une nouvelle école, qu'ils ont l'intention s'il n'y a pas de changement influencé par ce gouvernement de procéder avec une école ou bilingue ou bien une école qui serait strictement pour la population anglaise.

M. l'Orateur, certainement ma compréhension politique du gouvernement que tout élève francophone dans la province serait assuré d'une éducation en français au niveau secondaire, partout où vous aviez un bon nombre de francophones.

La région de Windsor est presque la dernière région de la province où vous avez un bon nombre de francophones où cet engagement est ignoré. La commission scolaire a donné comme raison à la diminution des subventions du gouvernement de 90% à 77% du coût capital de cette école. Mais vraiment je crois que ce n'est pas une raison valable que le ministre doit obliger de toute sa capacité pour se raviser ou de persuader la commission scolaire d'Essex et si la commission scolaire n'est pas prête, alors c'est à la politique provinciale de leur donner l'ordre de continuer de construire l'école française dans les régions de Windsor.

Nous avons un précédent concernant le traitement des écoles des commissions scolaires séparées au public dans la région de Toronto sur la question des écoles secondaires séparées et les élèves séparés dans le reste de Toronto. La précédente a été fixée pour cette raison je crois que le ministre évidemment détient le pouvoir informel et peut-être formel pour assurer l'éducation secondaire d'une école française dès le commencement de l'année académique en septembre 1976.

Deuxième, M. l'Orateur, nous avons le problème de l'éducation de nos enfants anglophones en français. Les d'immersion français pour les élèves anglophones ont eu un énorme succès dans la région d'Ottawa mais sont menacés par le retraitage des fonds fédéraux.

Evidemment, maintenant nous avons l'appui de M. Spicer, le commissaire aux langues officielles au niveau fédéral qui dit que c'est bien mieux de dépenser de l'argent comme ça que de dépenser des dizaines de millions sur l'éducation des fonctionnaires âges de 30, 40 ou 50 ans. A peu près un tiers des enfants anglophones à Ottawa prennent maintenant leur éducation en français.

M. l'Orateur, c'est notre opinion que le gouvernement ne doit pas ignorer le besoin à Ottawa et que le gouvernement doit continuer avec un programme d'immersion pour assurer l'éducation en français pour tout élève anglophone qui en désire partout dans la province, que cela doit s'étager dans une période de deux ou trois années pour assurer que ces cours sont disponibles partout dans la province avant le commencement disons de 1980.

M. l'Orateur vous parlez très bien le français et j'aimerais bien continuer avec ce discours, mais le temps est fini. Nous sommes en désaccord avec le gouvernement. Nous croyons que le gouvernement a commencé une politique de confrontation contre toute la population de la province. Pour ces raisons, nous croyons que la disposition doit être défaité et une élection doit être déclenchée.

Mr. Bullbrook moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Legislative Assembly

# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Monday, April 5, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

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MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

## THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I don't want you to take issue with me tonight if I play to the gallery, because there are very few other people to play to here.

**Mr. Evans:** Especially in your seats.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I think, frankly, the whips should be constrained to some degree of secrecy, because it is obvious from the attendance here tonight they knew I was going to have the honour and opportunity of winding up for the Liberal Party. In any event, I say to you that I regard this with a little more trepidation than I have in the past in winding up on behalf of our party. It's always been a great honour.

I remember one time being asked to undertake the responsibility, and if I recall correctly it started at about 5:50 p.m. I didn't feel that 5:50 p.m. was an appropriate time to begin any major speech and that night I attempted to pay tribute to my hon. colleague the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. Spence). Maybe the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) remembers that night? I explained that night at 5:50 p.m. how we used to practice, going back and forth—I would drive him down to Delaware and somebody would pick him up there. This is about six or seven years ago, and I remember explaining for the then Premier, the Hon. John Robarts, how we used to practice being cabinet ministers, going back and forth.

I want to tell members that after this length of time, I'm getting sick of practising. If I don't soon get over there, I might consider an invitation to the Senate in Ottawa. That admission has to be an incredible conveyance of a sense of frustration on my part.

In any event, I do appreciate the opportunity of joining in this debate. I want to make some comments on Her Honour's humble address. Recognizing that Her Honour does not write that address, I want to say that the nomen-

clature is extremely appropriate, in the year of 1975-1976, when it is called a humble address. Any person who was involved in putting together that Throne Speech should regard it as totally one of humility, because it doesn't say very much. But that's understood; in a period of restraint it is very difficult for a Progressive Conservative administration to understand that government can govern without the inordinate, excessive expenditure of public funds. But more to that in the future.

I wanted to begin my comments, if I could, by wishing on behalf of this party—I am sure without reservation—through you, and recorded in the annals of our assembly, our best wishes for the speedy recovery of the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller).

I must say when he was first elected—I believe it was in 1971—I didn't know him. I found him to be a most charming, engaging, affable man and he has put upon those particular attributes an extreme ability as one of Her Majesty's ministers. And there isn't a member of this House who doesn't want to take issue with some of the decisions he has made, who doesn't recognize that he has become an instrument for what could only be characterized as financial hypocrisy; there isn't one of us who doesn't recognize also that after some type of soul-searching he undertook a very difficult task with his physical being and handled it extremely well from his point of view. If that responsibility contributed to the present illness, which I think probably that it did, then we not only wish him a speedy recovery, as I say, but we express our appreciation to him for his efforts on behalf of the people of Ontario.

If I may also, I want to begin by saying that I want to pay tribute to my former leader. It's somewhat of a redundancy because many others have paid tribute to him, but I don't think it is the type of redundancy that those people in this House will regard as unduly excessive. I don't think there is any doubt in anyone's mind that if you ask any member of this House, no matter what their partisan persuasion, what man represented

totally, in their minds, integrity of purpose, ability and dedication, the response would be Robert Fletcher Nixon.

It is, to say the least, Mr. Speaker, a somewhat difficult task to be the leader of the Liberal caucus in the legislative assembly of Ontario; somewhat. There are sometimes slight moments of trauma that affect you.

**Mr. Grossman:** That is an understatement.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** But I ask you, seriously, to hearken back for a moment, those of us who can, for perhaps a decade—and I know there sits the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch), who not only has a great affection, from a political point of view, for the former leader of the Liberal Party, but a very personal one also, going back many many years; and perhaps the length of my comments embarrass. I don't apologize for that because no one, without reservation, no one could, constantly, day in and day out, represent this party, in the analysis of legislation, in the understanding of what government policies' deficiencies were, as Bob Nixon did.

I want to say to those members—and obviously I want also to add this as a digression, that it again has become public knowledge to the press that I was speaking because I see there are two of them up there at the moment.

**Mr. Nixon:** They are all running back to hear you.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I want to say to you that those members of what Douglas Cater called the fourth branch of government—and I guess here, because of the lack of delineation between executive and legislative branches we can call them the third branch of government—who I think by and large do as an effective a job for the welfare of the people of Ontario as the other two branches do, the legislative and judicial; I think by and large they do. Frankly, I have had my moments of trauma with them, but I think they were self-engendered. I think there was some justification, at times, for some of the things that were said about me, personally and professionally and politically.

But I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, there is one member up there who I've got to put down in the history of this province as lacking any common sense, objectivity, nay at times, if I could add, some milk of human kindness. The vilification that our former leader was subjected to during the last elec-

tion by one member of the press gallery was something to behold. I'm sure that if Bob Nixon had gone out on a platform totally in favour of widows and orphans that particular man would regard it with some degree of illegitimacy.

In any event, we are all subjected to those things. But one does like some degree of temperance at times.

**Mr. Nixon:** That is a nice phrase.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** That is sort of a nice phrase. Every morning when I shave I use that phrase.

**Mr. Nixon:** Not necessarily temperance.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I say to you frankly, Mr. Speaker, I really want to record, as significantly as I can, the revulsion I have for the constant vilification by that man of Bob Nixon, without justification at all. Now he commences the crucifixion of the new leader. If St. John the Baptist were the leader of the Liberal caucus, he'd accuse him of using too much water. There's no doubt about that at all.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** St. John would never have taken it.

**Mr. Lewis:** He crucifies everyone equally.

**Mr. Singer:** Oh no, you've got to get your share.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I knew the Minister of Labour and the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) had supreme connections, but does she deal with St. John the Baptist?

**Mr. Nixon:** On a first-name basis.

**Mr. Lewis:** No, he deals with her.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I think she did call him John, as a matter of fact.

**Mr. Breithaupt:** She has him on hold.

**Mr. Sweeney:** With the load she is carrying, she needs those kinds of connections.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your indulgence in giving me the opportunity to make comments with respect to my particular fondness, respect and affection for those two members. I want to say to you, sir, it is going to be a difficult time for the Minister of Labour to undertake that peripheral and collateral responsibility, but I think she's doing a very fine job in that respect. She is a very able minister of the Crown.



**Mr. Reid:** There are very few of them over there.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** If ever there was a manifest conflict of interest, it's holding the portfolios of Health and Labour at the same time in the Province of Ontario, because in fairness to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis), he's done a very significant undertaking with respect to environmental and industrial health in the Province of Ontario.

The Labour ministry, if I may say so, has been one of reciprocity in effect. There has been no leadership in that particular portfolio with respect to those things that we talk about. The basic dehumanization of the work place is something absolutely foreign to the Labour ministry in the Province of Ontario. The government gives us this pap on page 5 of Her Honour's speech:

There are few problems more urgent than dispute resolution in the labour relations field. The Ministry of Labour will intensify its examination of the collective bargaining process with the aim of recommending substantive changes to reduce the incidence of industrial conflict.

That's the comment of the Ministry of Labour. That's the thrust of that ministry with respect to the minister's contribution to labour relations.

There's nothing new about what I say in this regard—if my colleagues who have been here some time will bear with me on this—because on Aug. 30, 1974, I said:

I just want to catalogue, if I may, these dates for the minister [That's this minister's predecessor]. On May 16, 1968, on June 2, 1969, on Dec. 17, 1969, and on Nov. 1, 1973, I myself exhorted the then Premier and the then Minister of Labour to establish some type of legislative forum, preferably a select committee, for the purpose of looking into the question of labour relations in the Province of Ontario.

[8:15]

**Mr. Reid:** And still is.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** There's nothing novel about this because mediation, conciliation and arbitration are not and should never be, as far as I'm concerned, the total burden of the Ministry of Labour; quite the contrary. Reciprocity is not the function of the Ministry of Labour and I wish Mr. Munro in Ottawa understood it also.

That isn't the function of that type of portfolio. The function of that type of portfolio, in the absence of direction by trade union leaders, is to lead; is to talk about the dehumanization of the work force which goes on, day in and day out, and continues in

this province and continues throughout the Dominion of Canada.

We like to sit here during the question period and play our games while some fellow in Oakville has a job, from 8 o'clock in the morning till 4 in the afternoon, putting a screw in the same place every day. That's the type of thing the Ministry of Labour should be looking into as well as industrial—why does the minister shake her head?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** No, I'm not shaking my head.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** The minister shakes her head; maybe I have double vision.

**Mr. Reid:** She should be nodding.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I thought I saw her shaking her head. But that's the type of thing—

Interjection.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** How long do we have to ask? A decade we've been asking for this—a decade—for some type of response.

Collective bargaining can't be dollars and cents all the time. I sometimes wonder whether the leadership of the trade union movement doesn't think it should be that. I say that with some hesitation, some reticence, but without confrontation, where stands the leadership of the trade union movement?

What have we done? We've asked for an analysis of co-determination. We did this in our policy. Our leader asked for that during the last election. Why not let's have a look at it? It's been successful in the steel industry in West Germany. Why not let's have a look at it?

Why not some involvement by the workers in the development of the milieu in which they work? Why not? Why not some participation in the equity endeavour of the corporations? Let's have a look at, say final offer settlement. Let's have a look at it.

Instead, what do we get? A decade of indifference and when the time comes—as I'll refer to in a few moments—when the Tories can't write a Throne Speech based on spending money, they decide they'll give the people of Ontario that type of pap, that type of progress—

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** It's not pap.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** If it's not pap, let's get on with it. I say this: March 9, 1976, was the date of Her Honour's address to us, almost a month ago; we on this side of the House, who have, I hope, some interest—as I hope

do all members—in the collective bargaining process and, more important, what is regarded as the humanization of the workplace, want to get on with that.

I ask now, for the sixth time in nine years, for the establishment of either a royal commission or a select committee—preferably, I say to members, a select committee. Just for my own particular feelings, and I know that my former leader and I have had discussions in this respect—I believe we have?

**Mr. Nixon:** Right.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** We have. I myself would like to see a select committee appointed in this respect. I truly believe in the function of the legislative process, notwithstanding the obvious disintegration that takes places; because at 2 o'clock every day, to me now, Mr. Speaker—I want to say with the greatest respect to you—it is almost Bastille Day in this House. It really is. I expect to hear the clicking of knitting needles some day and Madame Defarges yelling. That question period has become so irrelevant that I wonder whether—I had a lady in the House today, the mother of one of our pages, who said to me: "It would have been nice to be able to hear the response of a minister and, more important, it would have been nice to hear the question that was asked." Maybe I should lead the way as I have attempted to do—I don't know whether members have noticed that over the last few weeks I have attempted in the vernacular, to keep my mouth shut as much as possible.

**Mr. Nixon:** Moderation and responsibility.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I tell members that is a very difficult task for me.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Temperance.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I'm really—my colleague the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) has just said "Hear, hear". I'm not sure that I like that.

I want to say, if I may, that this is what I regard the Labour portfolio to be. I think perhaps if this minister is engendering this type of response, it certainly isn't novel. It is a response that, as I say, comes a decade late, but it's a response that we need. I just hope very shortly, therefore, we are going to have some statement to support that type of comment.

We are involved in a minority government situation. I want to record that I don't believe in the efficacy of minority government;

I just don't think they work, no matter what the attitude of people is. I truly believe in the concept, rightly or wrongly, that to govern you have to have the ability to govern.

**Mr. Grossman:** How are you going to vote tonight?

**Mr. Nixon:** How are you voting for that, Larry?

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I'll tell you how I am going to vote—in response to the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), I am going to vote, and I am very prideful of this, the same way I have done in every recorded vote that I was involved in since I was elected in 1967; I am going to vote with the Liberal caucus.

**Mr. Reid:** What do you plan to do about Doctors Hospital?

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I'll tell you, I'm very prideful to do so.

**Mr. Lewis:** You are the only one who can say that, Jimmy.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** We will get onto that in a few minutes.

**Mr. Reid:** What are you going to do about Doctors Hospital?

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I need some protection tonight.

Interjections.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Minority government is a difficult situation; it truly is. We look back to December and the trauma that descended upon the New Democratic Party—

[Interruption.]

**Mr. Bullbrook:** If I may just resume my seat for a moment, all right?

**Mr. Lewis:** Adjourn the House, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would ask that everybody hold their places for a few moments, please.

[On resumption:]

**Mr. Speaker:** I think we might continue now, thank you.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Thank you, sir. That's a shaking experience for those people who are involved in the public galleries. I don't want to seem opportunistic, but any of us who've



availed ourselves of the responsibility to visit with school children or others, knows the inclination of those stairs is truly something. It scares you. Perhaps you might consider, sir—and I am sorry if this does seem opportunistic—some handrails or something of that nature that might assist.

In any event, I was talking about the fact there is a minority government here and people do have different approaches to it. I just don't, myself, feel that minority governments truly are the most efficacious way of governing ourselves. I think the rent review legislation was an example of that, frankly. The problem is, government must bring in legislation. I truly believe that government has a responsibility to understand the administrative and financial consequences, the social and economic consequences of legislation when it brings it in, and it can't be assured of that in a minority situation.

We put forward 15 amendments to the rent review legislation, which, in my opinion, make it almost an administrative nightmare. I just don't think government can work that way, but people have different ideas of governing, and we, I suppose, collectively can be called upon under the traditions of the parliamentary system to bring a government down. For example, the New Democratic Party had the opportunity, I suppose, on the aspect of AIB to bring the government down. They chose not to do so. There was no great vituperation on our part in that respect. That was their choice to be made at that time, but it seems to me that there is a lack of reciprocity in that understanding at times, I don't know.

**Mr. Martel:** That's carrying it too far.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Maybe I carry it too far, I sometimes do that. But I want to tell you—

Interjection.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I wonder sometimes; I read the resolution on the order paper of that esteemed colleague from—is it Sandwich-Riverside? — my very, very fine colleague from—

**Mr. Burr:** Windsor-Riverside.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** —from Windsor-Riverside. Has this been caucused? I read it to you.

**Mr. Reid:** Is this party policy?

**Mr. Lewis:** He has never been so fine as when he submitted this motion.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** "That in the opinion of this House"—

Interjection.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I'll try again:

That in the opinion of this House whenever a minority provincial government is elected in Ontario, no further election should be held for a period of two years, thereby assuring the elected members a minimum period of security of tenure.

I tell you it—

**Mr. Reid:** This is the party position?

**Mr. Bullbrook:** —flies in the face of parliamentary tradition, but with great, great—integrity I suppose is the word again. At least Fred Burr puts first things first. It's the security of tenure of the members that's important. It's not the welfare—no, it's not the welfare—

Interjections.

**Mr. MacDonald:** It also flies in the face of your sense of humour.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Well, at least I have one to fly in the face of. Isn't that remarkable? That's a novel approach.

Interjections.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Whether it conveys just an individual attitude from a socialist or a social democrat, or whether it's something that is a response to a collective wish on the part of the New Democratic caucus, I don't know.

**Mr. Burr:** I just explained to you it was my own personal opinion.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** If it is, then I apologize.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** If it is his wish, Mr. Speaker, if it is his singular and sole individual and personal wish, so be it.

**Mr. McClellan:** Why are you going to vote with the government?

**Mr. Bullbrook:** But it's interesting to analyse that resolution, because the resolution in effect says no matter what the government does to the disadvantage of the people of Ontario, we will not have an election. That's what it says.

But I think the second aspect of it really is significantly interesting. It's because of security of tenure, as I say, the important aspect of the longevity of this House. It is not the welfare and good government of the people of Ontario, but to make sure that we don't have an election again.

I want to tell you there isn't one member of this House superior to me in laziness or inertia—not one.

**Mr. Reid:** I don't know, I see a few over there.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Nobody wants an election less than Bullbrook.

**Mr. Nixon:** Our party would win with a bigger majority.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I can't abide elections; I just can't. I must tell you I find them truly distasteful, but they are, unfortunately, part of the democratic process. I want a benevolent dictatorship with Lorne as the benevolent dictator, because—

Interjections.

**Mr. Nixon:** At least the subsidy cheques would arrive on time.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** —the discussions—

**Mr. Foulds:** I want to—

**Mr. Bullbrook:** You know my former leader makes light of that, about the subsidy cheques getting there on time.

**Mr. Nixon:** They'd be hand delivered.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** A lot of people thought that the delivery of those cheques to the old folks' home did have something to do with the concurrence of an election. It didn't. Lorne wanted to make sure they got them. I know he did.

**Mr. Nixon:** Is it true he had cash in his pocket to cash the cheques?

**Mr. Bullbrook:** The fact that there was an election the next day just was co-incidental; and the fact that he told them where their polling subdivision was was nothing but a corporal work of mercy.

You talk about elections and minority governments and how they work. I want to read a letter to the mayor of Sarnia in connection with the seatbelt legislation. The seatbelt legislation has become in Sarnia at least an extremely emotional issue based upon what is regarded—I am not sure whether Borovoy would agree or not—as an essential intrusion

on fundamental rights. I want to tell you, on the field—

[8:30]

**An hon. member:** He is from St. Catharines.

**Mr. Johnston:** Great city, St. Catharines. Represented by a great man.

**Mr. Reid:** Are you going to represent yourself as a great man?

**An hon. member:** Who's that member over there?

**An hon. member:** Is that his maiden speech?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Sarnia is making this speech, thank you.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Oh no, I don't mind that at all—an interjection from the member for St. Catharines. It records him in the annals of this House, which is a novel experience at best. I like to see him here. I've found him a congenial and, at times, convivial colleague in the legislative process.

I want to read to the House, if I may, this letter. It has to do with seatbelts. Seatbelts became an emotional issue. It was almost traumatic; I had many letters. I want to tell the members I made a terrible mistake in that respect; I've learned a lesson. I spoke against the legislation. I thought for a moment I was a civil libertarian but the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) convinced me otherwise.

I decided, frankly, that we would give it a year so that they would statistically prove the benefits of the wearing of seatbelts. But in Sarnia it became significant—I know it became significant to my colleague the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. Spence). As a matter of fact, with respect to seatbelts he had more mail in one week than Errol Flynn had during his whole career. But I say to the House, he resisted it. What he did, of course—and our colleague the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Johnston) did the same thing—was, when the law became the law, and he must be subject to the law—

**Mr. McClellan:** Under persuasion.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Under some persuasion.

**Mr. Nixon:** You still don't wear it, eh, Bob?

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I regret hearing that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Sarnia.



**Mr. Bullbrook:** I regret hearing that our colleague from St. Catharines will not wear the belt.

**Mr. Johnston:** I never intend to.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I want him to know there is nothing better than a belt once in a while. It can be protective.

But in any event, one of the aldermen in Sarnia who is still, I think, a member of the executive of the Progressive Conservative Party, has undertaken a very stirring drive against seatbelts. I think perhaps I might have to join them if the merits of same aren't statistically proven afterwards.

**Mr. Nixon:** Is it true he's going to run against you?

**Mr. Bullbrook:** That was the understanding I had.

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, we'll wipe him out too.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** It would be an issue.

This letter from my colleague, the Minister without Portfolio. By the way, if I might digress again just for a moment, I received an unsolicited letter last week from a constituent—I don't know what his partisan persuasion is—asking me, truly asking me, what the function, duty and responsibility are of my colleague, the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson), the Minister without Portfolio.

**Mr. Nixon:** That's a difficult question.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I had asked that before. I wrote him a letter saying that the Premier (Mr. Davis), in response to my initial question, said, "He's of great help to me." I have no doubt about that at all. I sent the letter on to the Premier, accompanied by a copy of the letter from the constituent, asking for a copy of the Premier's reply. Notwithstanding the very enjoyable relationship that I have with the hon. Minister without Portfolio, and frankly the charity that he does permit me—for example, if there are eight appointments to be made in the city of Sarnia, it'll be one for Jim and seven for Lorne—

**Mr. Nixon:** They've got to go.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Justice is justice and if you can get a little bit of justice, get it while you can.

This is a letter to "Mr. Andrew S. Brant, Mayor of Sarnia, City Hall, Sarnia, Ont.," and it's headed, "Dear Friend." You bet your life he's a dear friend. He used to be the vice-president of my association. He no longer is. He's a very significant Tory, so Lorne should call him "dear friend." He says:

I have received your comments on the seatbelt legislation which was passed through the Ontario Legislature in the December session of the Legislature and was to become effective Feb. 1. First, may I take this opportunity to explain how this legislation came about.

And then he goes through and makes the comment about the saving of \$50 million and the possible saving of one life per week—

**Hon. Mr. Henderson:** Per day.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Per day, I'm sorry. And I want to give him credit, that works out to 365 in this letter.

**Mr. Eaton:** That's 366; it's leap year.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I am sorry, but you have 365 here. But now let me read on. Maybe it is like my colleague from Windsor-Riverside, maybe it's a personal opinion, although it does come from a minister of the Crown.

In view of the fact that we are now a minority government, it would appear to me that one or both of the opposition parties will have to come forth and ask to have the legislation withdrawn from the law books of Ontario.

**Mr. Reid:** What do you get paid for?

**Mr. Singer:** That's leadership!

**Mr. Bullbrook:** That's the view of a minister of the Crown as to how we rescind legislation. He wrote that to the mayor of Sarnia because a copy was sent to me at the request of one of the aldermen, saying: "Charitably, at best, I will make no comment."

**Mr. Shore:** "Dear friend."

**Mr. Bullbrook:** But I do want the people of Sarnia to know that we could put forward 4,000 bills rescinding that legislation and the rules of this House do not permit that such legislation would be debated on second reading or entertained by the members of this House—

**Mr. Singer:** Or voted upon.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** —or voted upon; unless the government which controls the orders of the day allows it.

**Mr. Eaton:** Would you rescind it now?

**Mr. Bullbrook:** So I want to say to my colleague from Lambton, if you don't like the seatbelt legislation, why don't you have courage enough to rescind it? That's all you have to do.

**Hon. Mr. Henderson:** We do like it.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** You do like it? Well why do you artificially transfer the burdens of responsibility to the opposition when you know perfectly well they can do nothing about it? Have at least courage enough to tell the people you are in favour of it and it will stay there until you decide it's in the best interests of the people, so that the people involved decide when it's in their best interests to have it rescinded.

**Hon. Mr. Henderson:** It's the first time in your life you have had to accept responsibility in this House.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** So those are the two aspects of minority government in Ontario.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Thank God, he doesn't have a portfolio.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** It will work. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, I have gone on much longer than I intended and I apologize.

**Mr. Hodgson:** You haven't said anything, but keep going.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I apologize to you for this, but I want to say something to you, Mr. Speaker, and to my colleagues.

I am sorry, did I miss somebody? No, not really, but I want to wait until he gets in his seat so he's in order.

**Mr. Gregory:** Go on.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Sarnia should continue.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Listen, the only enjoyment one gets out of life is interjections once in a while; it truly is.

I want to say this to you, Mr. Speaker, and I will try, frankly, to be as serious as I can. Government now is all about restraint and the restraint in spending, and I haven't suffered the degree of effect that many members have.

The last election the Liberal Party ran on the fact that we couldn't afford another Davis government. That was based on several things, one of which was fiscal responsibility. Had we formed the government, we want to tell you, we would have undertaken without too much reservation a programme of restraint, and we would have suffered the collateral effects of a restraint programme. We find it very difficult ourselves to abide the fact that the beginning of a restraint programme must be effectuated in the health and social service fields.

Many people have spoken about visiting their Children's Aid Societies. People who have spoken during the course of their contribution of the Throne debate have mentioned mine, the Lambton Children's Aid Society, which had a deficit last year of some \$87,000 and then were called upon to meet their statutory obligations under the Child Welfare Act with a contribution towards their increased cost of 5.5 per cent.

They said to me, and they said to my colleague from Lambton, the Minister without Portfolio: "It can't be done, and we know it can't be done."

I want to tell you, in the context of money that's wasted day in and day out in the community colleges of Ontario, it is galling to think for one moment that people should be subjected to a withdrawal of services that are essential, not to their well-being, but essential to their very life, while the Council of Regents and the boards of governors and the administrators and presidents of community colleges attempt to invent ways to spend public funds. That's where we would like to see something done. I know I would. I would demand it of the Premier of Ontario if we were incumbent and I was given the opportunity of serving with him in the government of this province.

Let me tell members something that goes on right now and I wish the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Parrott) were here. The Ontario Dental Association has undertaken a programme of providing for preventive dentistry or dental assistance. The Ontario Dental Association said that it could be done in a maximum of little over two semesters. Do members know what the Council of Regents of the community colleges said? It's got to be a two-year programme.

The Ontario Dental Association is meeting shortly with the Minister of Colleges and Universities in respect to this because all it is, of course, is a waste of public funds. Members have heard my former leader talk about some of the programmes in community colleges and the expenditure of funds which has been made with respect to them.

I only say this: We will support a restraint programme. It would have been done, I think, on a priority basis very much unlike the priorities established by this government. But so be it if we have to. But it is very difficult. I find it very difficult as one member to sit here—I find it almost like a sea captain who has grounded his vessel on the shore, through negligence, criminality and without regard to the passengers, inviting the



passengers to applaud when he says: "Save our ship."

I want to tell the House that's what it has been. It's been negligent, it's been criminal; the expenditures of funds. When I was elected here in 1967, the budget for 1968 was \$1.4 billion and I invite my colleague from Ottawa West to hearken back to the beginning of his days.

We realized the inflationary tendencies. We realized that public spending has gone up. We realize the impulsion of the federal government upon the provincial purse. We realize that, but we have to sit and hear them, as we will hear the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) tomorrow night, pontificate in an almost sanctimonious fashion about the need to save money in the Province of Ontario, when the deficit last year was more than the total budget when I was elected in 1967. It's \$2 billion of waste.

We talk about the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. It's a vacant document. Vacuous, filled with nothing—not even any attempt at sound and fury, because this government and the Progressive Conservative Party can only write an effective Throne Speech when they spend money.

I wish I had more time to speak about the expenditure of public funds and read some of the former Throne Speeches in which one after another of the pages is filled with new programmes. I'm going to disclose not a confidence but a conversation I once had with the hon. Stanley Randall after he left the government. We were talking one evening and he was talking about what it was like to be a cabinet minister in a Progressive Conservative regime and he said that the thing he had to do to be effective was to undertake programmes. Programmes were everything; the spending of funds was everything. Members will remember when the Committee on Government Productivity brought its report in and we said, "Goodness gracious, why? Why this duplication of effort? Why the spending of money?"

I just want to take one moment of our time to read, if I can, from the Henderson report at page 63.

The Ontario government's total budgetary expenditures doubled in the five years from 1970-1971 to 1975-1976. In contrast, expenditures on administration increased 2.3 times. This greater increase in government's implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Government Productivity for improvement of administration in the Ontario Public Service—these recommendations covered finance and ac-

counting, policy planning and analysis, communication and the use of human resources.

One has to apologize for reiteration and redundancy but I ask, what does the Provincial Secretary for Justice do? What does he do?

Mr. Speaker, you know he does nothing and yet we expend \$1.4 million for that charade.

[8:45]

I want to read just for a moment some statistics that I would like to record for you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, not about the increases in payments for social welfare, not about the increases that are made for some other needed services, but the increases that have been made to support government, the money spent for cabinet ministers and the supportive services. In 1971, the expenditure in millions of dollars for the support services for ministries of the Crown was \$51 million. In 1972, it went up 27.2 per cent to \$64.9 million. In 1973, it went up 12.4 per cent to \$73 million. In 1974, it went up 13.4 per cent to \$82.8 million. In 1975, the interim levy for support services for ministries of the Crown was \$98.1 million or an additional annual increase of 18.5 per cent. The estimates for this year were \$122,100,000 for an additional increase of 24.5 per cent.

We are not talking about providing obligations under the Child Welfare Act. We are not talking about the redundancy of building a hospital in Hanover and closing one down in Chesley and Durham. We are talking about the money spent by government to support the ministers over there. Henderson says in his report that there is no need for an increase of any kind, indexed to inflation or otherwise, for government services next year. If there is any integrity at all in the programme of this government, there won't be one additional cent spent for supportive services in administration. Let's begin there. That's where we want to begin.

I am not going to burden you with talking about OISE again. I intended to do that tonight, Mr. Speaker, but I have taken too much time. It's very difficult for us to applaud that captain who wishes that type of applause in the restraint programme. We know it's necessary. But it's very difficult for us to applaud him when we know we are still wasting that money on the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, because what has happened in the field of education, in my respectful opinion, is an abomination.

I have never believed that life, liberty and, more important, the pursuit of happiness was

dependent upon understanding what a split infinitive is. But I tell you this, I truly believe that it is a desecration of the process when my child is not permitted by his teacher to know what it is because the teacher doesn't know what it is. That has come from one person and one bit of gamesmanship. That person is the present Premier of Ontario (Mr. Davis), make no mistake about it. He was the one who began this business of experimentation in the field of education.

Almost all parents, aware of the opportunities they had, find it not only repugnant but totally unacceptable. Yet we go on and on and spend more money, year after year, on experimental programmes.

Mr. Speaker, you've been indulgent with me. I intended to go into more detail but I say again to you that I hope we have an opportunity of bringing the question period back into some relevancy. It's a difficult task for you, I realize that, and I am sure you do it much better than I could ever possibly aspire to do it.

I say again that we will vote this evening, we hope, to continue with the minority government, notwithstanding the reticence that we have, personally and collectively, as to its efficacy. We feel—and I hope I convey this to you as sincerely as I may—that this is a response to the will of the people of Ontario, as we see it. If, as some writers say, there is a shame and a change of attitude, then we will bear the burden of that alleged shame. If, however, the people of Ontario, as we think, feel they want an opportunity to evaluate the government and they don't want the expenditure of so many millions of dollars for an unnecessary election, as they see it, then we will bear the burden of that alleged shame. We believe in the Truman axiom—we can stand the heat—because we're on our way to the cabinet.

ALAN GROSSMAN

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I'm not sure whether they are clapping for my colleague or for my standing up.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: I notice, Mr. Speaker, in the gallery tonight is the former member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. A. Grossman) and I'd like to call to your attention, sir, that he is with us tonight. More than ever before, we certainly have the need of his services in this Legislature, considering who succeeded him.

Mr. L. Grossman: Thank you, Pat.

Mr. Reid: The other thing I would like to draw to your attention, sir, because a great point of it has been made in the past, is that in this very significant Throne Speech debate windup, there are four of 26 cabinet ministers here to hear the windup of these speeches. I just thought that you'd be interested in that statistic.

Interjections.

### THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (concluded)

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I'm not as distressed as my friend from Rainy River about the lack of the cabinet across there. I don't have much use for them anyway, so whether they are here or not it doesn't make much difference.

Secondly, I'm honoured by the privilege my caucus colleagues have bestowed upon me in designating me as the windup speaker for the official opposition in this Throne Speech debate. I undertake that responsibility with a sense of some awe and humility, because this is and has been a crucial Throne Speech debate. This is really the first time that a government in Ontario could fall on a substantive matter in the House in some 30 years.

Mr. S. Smith: The AIB wasn't substantive enough for you?

Mr. Foulds: As a matter of fact I'm glad you raised that, because we in this party see no difference between "wage and wage" controls administered federally or provincially.

When you administer controls solely on working men and women in the lower academic classes—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: —give us something substantive. Don't play games.

Mr. Martel: Give him a tennis racquet.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, there will be a historic vote taken later tonight, and it was with some sorrow and no little bit of anger that I learned that the third party, after first grandstanding with a particular sub-amendment, which simply repeated three of our points, had decided after a caucus re-



volt, while their leader was off playing tennis, that they would change their position. I admit that the hon. leader of the third party put the best face on it that he could.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Foulds:** But the caucus not only betrayed the leader of that party, they betrayed the people of Ontario. Because, Mr. Speaker, I put to you that if you move a motion of non-confidence, which a subamendment to the Speech from the Throne is, if you move a motion of non-confidence, then you stand by it, and you don't play games with motions and amendments to substantive matters like the Speech from the Throne and the budget. This is not a psychiatrist's couch, this is not a college debating society. Government business and legislative business is serious and important and you play it straight.

What particularly angered me about what ever happened over there is that the Liberal Party, the third party in this Legislature, has effectively given a carte blanche to a minority Conservative government.

**Mr. Breithaupt:** Don't you believe it.

**Mr. Foulds:** How the devil can they—after saying they polled the people of Ontario and the people of Ontario don't want an election—tomorrow night, when the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) raises OHIP premiums, vote against that government when it's part of the Liberal Party policy that health care should be taken from income tax? How are they going to face that public?

**Mr. Martel:** Oh, they'll manage it.

**Mr. Foulds:** Oh, I know they'll manage.

**Mr. Martel:** They'll manage anything.

Interjections.

**Mr. Foulds:** I know they'll manage, but what that illustrates, Mr. Speaker, is that there is no substantive matter on which the Liberals can now vote to defeat this government within the foreseeable future. They've given the Premier (Mr. Davis) and his tired colleagues over there carte blanche for the next year, year and a half or two years.

**Mr. Martel:** Right on. Maybe they should take up ping-pong.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Foulds:** The Premier had announced before the Legislature opened that this would not be a session with a heavy load of legislation. Therefore, we could have reasonably expected that the Speech from the Throne would have departed from the usual string of rhetorical clichés and would have dealt with substantive matters in some detail. It failed to do so.

For example, it would have been reasonable to expect the Speech from the Throne to tackle the serious economic problems facing Ontario as well as vaguely dealing with the fiscal questions facing the province because of the Conservative government's mismanagement over the past number of years. The speech should have tackled Ontario's unemployment problem vigorously. It failed to do so.

We could have expected from the Speech from the Throne that it deal with a strategic plan of development throughout Ontario, especially as it affects development in northern and eastern Ontario. Not only did the Speech from the Throne fail to do that, it failed to mention those two parts of the province.

**An hon. member:** They don't know where they are.

**Mr. Foulds:** Perfectly true. Perfectly true.

**Mr. Martel:** Another grant for the mining companies.

**Mr. Foulds:** I say to you, Mr. Speaker, it was with a great deal of seriousness that the New Democratic Party approached this session and this problem. I don't think I'm betraying any confidences of our caucus to say that we had three very long and detailed caucus meetings before we made the final decision to put our final amendment to the Speech from the Throne, and we did it with a great deal of seriousness. And when we did instruct our House leader to draft the amendment, we knew what it would contain and we knew the possible consequences of that. We even knew that the Liberal Party might support us and cause an election. We didn't think they would support us and then not support us, but we knew that there might possibly be an election.

**Mr. Martel:** Well, there's still another hour. They might change their minds yet. Give them time.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** They're still caucusing.

**Mr. Lewis:** It's nice to be speaking second last rather than third last.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** You're right. I intend to speak last next time.

**Mr. Foulds:** Mr. Speaker, much has been made of two points. First, do the people of Ontario want an election? And much is being made of the second point, that this government supposedly needs more time to prove itself. I want to say to both those points that we reject them. People never really want an election. For most people, it's a false question to put to them.

**Mr. Reid:** Even the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr) doesn't want an election, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. S. Smith:** For two years.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Foulds:** That is, in fact, his private member's resolution, and if it comes up for debate the member for Rainy River will have an opportunity to support it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will continue with the Throne Speech debate.

**Mr. Foulds:** By the way, has the Liberal-Labour Party made its caucus decision yet?

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Foulds:** For most people in our society, elections are an intrusion. If you ask anyone at any point in time, "Do you want an election?" by and large they will say no. But the logical extension of that attitude is that we should never have elections. And although the member for Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook), like Pierre Elliott Trudeau, states he is in favour of a benevolent dictatorship, I think any democrat, let alone a democratic socialist, would reject such an idea.

[9:00]

Secondly, and more importantly, I think this party rejects absolutely the argument that this government needs time to prove itself. How long do they need? The Progressive Conservative Party has been in power in this province for these 33 years. The Davis ministry has had power for five years. The present Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) has been in control of the treasury of this province,

with one honourable and brief interregnum, for a considerable length of time. If the province's finances are in a mess, whose fault is it? How long do they need?

**Some hon. members:** How long, O Lord, how long?

**Mr. Foulds:** How much longer does this government want to wreak havoc on the Province of Ontario? How much longer can we afford the Tories? They talk about an affordable society but I submit that society in Ontario can no longer afford the Tories; they are no longer an affordable party.

**Mr. Breaugh:** We just can't afford another Davis government. I just thought that up.

**Mr. Martel:** Did you hear that one, Bob?

**Mr. Breaugh:** This is your chance, guys.

**Mr. Foulds:** We know what the government's response has been to the serious social and economic problems facing this government. We know, from their actions over the last several months, what their programme will be over the coming year or years, or however long they have.

There are a couple of fallacies about that action. First of all, it is taken, by and large, outside of the venue of the Legislature; it is taken as much as possible through regulation; and it is taken—for example, the hospital closings—the day after the Legislature closes on Dec. 18 when they send the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) out to close hospitals and curtail health care. Only a man with the personal integrity of the Minister of Health could have carried that programme out without bringing this government to its knees. It's only his personal integrity that has allowed the government to survive that particular phobia and madness.

Over the last few months we have had the dynamic duo of Wells and McKeough going around the province with, I might say, considerable backing from other cabinet ministers who went along at the public's expense and said nothing. We had these two ministers going around in a Churchillian vein, laying on the blood, sweat and tears speech to the people of Ontario, that we have got to tighten our belts; the only thing we have to offer is more taxes, less services and so on.

**Mr. Martel:** And fewer jobs.

**Mr. Foulds:** What they did, in effect, was to lay an authoritarian heavy hand upon the



school boards and the municipalities of this province. But, even more important than laying it on the municipalities and the school boards, they laid it on to the local taxpayer as if the provincial taxpayer somehow was somebody who was different from the local taxpayer. It was as if they were saving money and not forcing the people who own their homes, pay apartment rents and so on in the municipalities to pick up the slack.

There is a lot of debate—not a lot but there is some debate—amongst economists about whether or not property tax is regressive. I just want to use a very personal and small example, if I might. My mother, who is 73 years old, owns her own home. When it was built during the Depression, it probably cost about \$3,500. Its assessed value now is probably somewhere between \$18,000 and \$24,000. My father died a couple of years ago; her pension from the CNR was cut in half, and yet her taxes continue to rise as her income declines. She is able to pay the taxes, but the increasing property taxes are not based on an ability to pay as that one small example illustrates and as people in this party during the budget debate will be illustrating many times in the future months.

**Mr. Maeck:** What sort of property tax do you pay? Tell us about that.

**Mr. Foulds:** Then we had—I hardly know how to describe him. The minister who sits beside the Minister without Portfolio.

**Mr. Lewis:** That is his greatest distinction.

**Mr. Foulds:** You are right. That is his greatest distinction. The minister who has the title of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor).

Interjection.

**Mr. Foulds:** We saw that minister laying waste the Children's Aid Societies, day care, and the municipal social services across the province. How much evidence do we need that this government is lacking in a creative, response and is reaching back to a destructive, reactionary Conservative strain that does not come to grips with the Ontario of 1976?

By their work, ye shall know them; by their work we know this government. By its work of omission and commission this government is known and should be judged. After seven months of this particular parliament, this government has not responded to the crises in the province nor, may I say, to the views of the electorate as they were expressed in September of last year.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that during this debate, my colleagues from right across this province and from right across the areas of interest as they are expressed in the ministries have built a case, logically, methodically, step by step, brick by brick, to make our case forcefully for the defeat of this government. And we will continue to do that in this House as long as it should last and on the hustings when that will come. We see Sept. 18 of last year merely as round one in the current set of battles and this as round two.

I want to take first the three areas where the government action or inaction has been positively harmful and which we enunciated in our amendment. First of all, we said that we feel that this government lacks the confidence of this House because of its failure to develop an overall policy for the delivery of health care services, are exemplified especially by the closing of small community hospitals and public laboratories. My colleague from High Park (Mr. Ziembra) and my colleague from Parkdale (Mr. Duksza) and many, many of my colleagues put that most forcefully during the supplementary estimates of that ministry. I just want to underline one or two quick points.

The leader of this party documented in his leadoff on the Speech from the Throne that the so-called savings, the so-called restraints, are actually going to cost the taxpayers of this province more money. The expenditure at Goderich, for example—the minister's net saving is a loss of over \$500,000. Now it takes real genius to develop a programme of restraint that costs the taxpayers more money.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Only a Tory can do it.

**Mr. Warner:** Nobody can lose money faster than they can.

**Mr. Samis:** New math.

**Mr. Foulds:** The saving in Timmins—North-eastern—the saving is a net loss of \$126,000. That takes real genius.

**Mr. Ferrier:** That saving does serious damage to people who are now not receiving adequate care.

**Mr. Foulds:** Not only that, as my colleague from Timmins interjects and rightly points out, in economic terms it's stupid and foolish; in human terms it's destructive and harmful. The destruction to small communities and to the life blood of this province is even more foolish and harmful—in communities such as Durham and Clinton. The dislocation to other larger centres, such as Thun-

der Bay, where 107 active treatment beds are being closed down, 122 psychiatric hospital beds are being closed down.

What that says to me, and I say it with some care, is that this government—in the name of fiscal restraint because its bankers have told it it must pull up its socks—is willing to allow suicides to take place in the province in the next few years which would not have done so; people will die in this province who would not have done so because of the cutback in health and psychiatric services.

In the social services area—I can't tell members how impressed and pleased I have been as a sophomore, a second run member of this Legislature, about the quality of the new members who have been added to my caucus. Nothing was more impressive than the documentation put forward by my colleague from Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) in the supplementary estimates of Community and Social Services. He enunciated, along with a number of his colleagues whom he had organized and who had supportive material, the problems in Children's Aid Societies in Metro Toronto, Ottawa, Kenora and throughout this province. I don't want to get into the details of those cases because he has done such a fine job of it but I want to embarrass him by quoting what I think was one of the finest short statements about what that debate and this debate is all about. As he said to the Minister of Community and Social Services:

What you are doing is cutting precisely those programmes that serve to strengthen families; to prevent their breakdown; to prevent them from coming into care at double or triple the cost; to prevent them from ending up in later years on the welfare roll or in mental institutions or in jail at double, triple or quadruple the cost. It's precisely the kind of programming that has been most severely hit by your mindless austerity programme, by your shifting of the burden of paying for service to municipalities and to the property tax in an election year. That's the consequence of what you're doing.

Nothing could be more true. What this government is doing is dismantling the preventive care in all these areas which would, in the long run, save us money economically and save us human beings so that they could lead more productive lives in this society.

What has happened with Community and Social Services? We had the 5.5 per cent laid on by the minister so he could go across the province doing his welfare bashing. In fact, what has happened after considerable public

pressure; the threat of a number of the boards to resign; some pretty tough negotiations on the part of some boards like Kapuskasing; and, I submit, the battle that he and my colleagues raised here in the Legislature, is that the minister is going around now and negotiating with societies, one by one. Why didn't he do that in the first place?

**Mr. Warner:** It's too sensible.

**Mr. Foulds:** Why didn't he say: "We would like to keep the spending, if humanly possible, to five per cent or eight per cent. What I want to do is sit down with you individually, one by one, go over your budgets and see where we can save."

**Mr. Wildman:** But they didn't know to do that until they got the children's letters.

**Mr. Foulds:** What we have to do or what this government has to do is hit everybody over the head. One director of one northern Children's Aid Society actually had to sit down with the children he had in his care in a group home because they were so traumatized, so insecure, because of the headlines, and assure them that they would not be turfed out on the street tomorrow.

[9:15]

What has happened to the government's sense of reason? We know that the present minister never had much of a sense of reason, but what has happened to the Conservative sense of reason or reasonableness? They have abandoned it and they abandoned it long ago, as they have abandoned the people of Ontario.

Thirdly, we felt that this government had lost the confidence of the House because of its obvious increase in the burden of municipal taxes. My colleague from Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden), I am sure, will be dealing with this matter extensively in the budget debate, as will my colleague from Welland (Mr. Swart), and many others. I just want to point out one or two kinds of interesting things. To the best of my knowledge, there is not a mining company in Ontario that pays property taxes for the mine. And yet because of these mines, all kinds of northern communities exist and must exist.

What is even more ironic is when a corporation, such as Noranda, is quite willing to be annexed by the township of Ignace, so that it would pay property tax to that municipality, the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs won't allow it to happen. The mine is some 50 miles away, but it's Ignace that is the dormitory community. The government prevents the corpo-



ration from paying municipal taxes, even though the corporation is willing to be annexed. Consequently, Ignace goes bankrupt and comes under the receivership of the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs.

What kind of insanity is that? In the meantime, our good friend—pardon me, I mustn't say good friend, because he is not—the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) goes around handing out tax concessions to the major mining companies, while admitting at the very same time that those concessions will not increase productivity, will not increase employment and will not even increase sales because, as he says in his own press release; "All that we can hope for is that the inventory will be taken up and sold, for example, from International Nickel and from Falconbridge."

And yet this minister is willing to take that action, which is a doubtful action, on behalf of the major mining corporations in Ontario, and he is willing and the government is willing to sacrifice \$15 million in revenue. In other words, it is a tax giveaway in the time of restraint. Revenue that we could justly use for other programmes is given away.

Is the minister willing to take any kind of aggressive action to protect working men and women in the workplace in occupational health hazards?

**Mr. Laughren:** You have got to be kidding.

**Mr. Bain:** Not that government.

**Mr. Foulds:** What do they do? They turn the argument around. With the tax concessions they say: "There might be some benefits trickle down. We haven't had it proved to us yet but we are willing to take the chance." But when they are dealing with the health and the lives of miners they say; "No, you have to prove to us that it's causing death and that it's causing illness."

My time is running somewhat short, so I am not going to use all of the documentation that I have. I know that this would probably give my colleague from Sarnia an apoplectic fit, if he were in the House, but I want to quote one of the legislative reporters whom he took to task a while ago. I quote him because he's not particularly known as a friend of the New Democratic Party. He's always wrote rather scathingly of us—

**Mr. Nixon:** He has what?

**Mr. Foulds:** He has written.

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, I thought under the circumstances that should not be allowed to pass.

**Mr. Foulds:** Claire Hoy wrote in the Toronto Sun:

Let us venture into northern Ontario to a small village near Kirkland Lake named Matachewan, where about 155 men earn their living in the United Asbestos Inc. plant.

"The Ministry of Health has access to countless studies, including some of their own, which prove the serious risks of cancer to asbestos workers. Yet nothing has happened. The time bomb called cancer is allowed to tick relentlessly away, demonstrably increasing the risks to workers and their families and nobody has ever even bothered to inform the workers of the danger they are in.

It is not alarmist to say flat out that many of these men are being allowed to kill themselves by working in the poorly protected conditions of that plant. This is not a political gimmick or a Lewis fantasy. It has nothing to do with socialism versus capitalism. It has to do with life.

**An hon. member:** I disagree with him there.

**Mr. Foulds:** I disagree with him there, too. But it has to do, as he says, with life. He goes on:

"It is as if the Ontario government is condemning many of those men to a premature death for the crime of working in a factory so they can afford to feed their kids. No excuse can alter that fact.

**Mr. Ruston:** Good to have you back, Bill.

Interjections.

**Mr. Foulds:** It was interesting to note as I was going through some statistical information this afternoon, that occupational health related factors in 1975 cost us 5.2 million person-days lost for temporary loss of employment. What could we do to the productivity of this province if we simply increased occupational safety?

**Mr. Martel:** It won't happen with Bernier around.

**Mr. Foulds:** It sure won't.

**Mr. Nixon:** Davis comes and Lorne leaves.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Need balance.

**Mr. Nixon:** I thought so but didn't want to say so.

**Mr. Foulds:** What I find shocking about that whole situation — my colleague from Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and my colleagues from Sudbury (Mr. Germa) and from Timiskaming (Mr. Bain) put the case very forcefully—is that we have no commitment from the government that there will be continuous monitoring in any of these situations. We have no concept by this government that potential dangers and death must be avoided, whether it is asbestos in the mines or asbestos in the drinking water at Thunder Bay. They always use the argument that there is no proven scientific evidence although it mounts, and mounts, and mounts, and we have to unearth and confront them with every single case. They will not move on it until they literally have their noses rubbed in it, and, frankly, I would like to rub the noses of every single cabinet minister of this province in the asbestos in the mines at Matachewan.

**Mr. Martel:** Or the uranium at Elliot Lake.

**Mr. Foulds:** It's the same with the mercury in the English-Wabigoon River system. When we have a potential case of possible minamata disease in a young child, we get the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) coming on the blower saying, "He has a premature birth. All these other factors have to be taken into consideration." By the way, who gave you the right to release his medical record?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** The member for York South (Mr. MacDonald).

**Mr. Lewis:** An interesting comment.

**Mr. Foulds:** I would like to put to you, Mr. Speaker, that the record of this government and the Minister of Natural Resources in terms of environmental safety is a disgrace to the government, it's a disgrace to the Legislature and it's a disgrace to the north.

**Mr. Martel:** Worse than that, it is criminal. What this Tory government has done is criminal.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Foulds:** I want to skip over the agricultural land-use because it was so forcefully put by my colleague from York South; and the problems of northern development have been dealt with by my colleague from Nickel Belt. I do want to make one or two points about the development of the north.

First of all, over the years this government has failed to see transportation as a develop-

ment tool for the north. They have failed to grasp that we need not only to provide incentives for development in the north and the eastern part of the province but we have to balance that with a programme of disincentives for the south so that we can save the agricultural land in the south and could use some of our less arable land for the development of secondary industry in northern Ontario.

**Job creation:** I went through the speeches in this debate over the supper hour and a little before and I was really rather surprised that there wasn't a single cabinet minister or government member who was able to document the creation of jobs since Sept. 18. This government is simply not committed to the creation of full employment and, indeed, the major fault of Tory economics is they see unemployment as a necessary evil. They don't even think of it as an evil but as a necessary tool—

**Mr. Bain:** Keeps the workers in their place.

**Mr. Foulds:** —to fight inflation and they make no effort truly to fight inflation. They make no effort to fight inflation in terms of housing costs. The Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) has not made a single statement since December about housing. He has talked about rent control. He has talked about home warranties. He has talked about cottages, but he has not talked about the creation of housing or the reduction of prices of housing or any methods to go about that.

**Mr. Wildman:** Watch it; you are going to be called a criminal.

**Mr. Foulds:** I want to sum up. I don't think that we in this party forget, nor do I think the people of Ontario should forget, that the Tory restraint package is an attack. It's an attack on small communities throughout this province where this government is ripping the guts out of those communities. They have closed the schools. They are now closing their hospitals.

The government's restraint programme is an attack on the disadvantaged of our society. It's an attack on single-parent families. It's an attack on those who suffer from crippling diseases. The government restraint programme is an attack on certain hard won rights and freedoms—the freedom of the pensioner to survive; the right of the northerner and the urban dweller to housing; the right of the handicapped to access to his community; the right of the able-bodied to have



work; and finally, the freedom and the right of the sick to health care.

We in the New Democratic Party do not say that a government which does not protect these rights minds its own business and is therefore non-interventionist. We say it has no business and that is why this government has lost our confidence and we are ready to vote it down.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie.

**Mr. Nixon:** We have to help you—there is nobody over there to help.

**Mr. Roy:** You are looking at many more faces here than there.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** I am disappointed in you.

**Mr. Nixon:** Let's hear a good Liberal speech.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Mr. Speaker, this is the first opportunity I have had to extend my congratulations to you and to the Deputy Speaker of this House. It is obvious that the chore you have taken on is not an easy one; the makeup of this Legislature is not one that would lend itself necessarily to orderly debate at all times.

**Mr. Kerrio:** To say the least.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** One would have assumed that the—

[Interruption]

**Mr. Speaker:** I have been advised that the Hansard recording equipment is not operating. May I ask the members to co-operate and suspend proceedings temporarily?

The House recessed at 9:30 p.m.

The House resumed at 9:45 p.m.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Now that our technical problems have been resolved, the hon. Minister of Housing will continue.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the one comment I must make is that I realized a lot of brown paper envelopes were being delivered but I didn't know the NDP would go to such extremes as to have them delivered at this time of night and turn out all the lights.

I want again to assure the hon. leader of the Liberal Party—

**Mr. S. Smith:** Watch the lights, John.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** —that we would be most pleased to have him come back and see us some time. I would be most pleased to welcome him back on the condition—because I am going to go to Hamilton later on this week and I promise to say it's a nice town and to spend some time there.

Earlier in this debate the hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook)—I think probably reflecting the attitude of many people in this Legislature today—said he really didn't care much for elections; he wasn't a great fan of elections. In fact, he said he hated elections. That isn't necessarily confined to the member for Sarnia. There are probably others who would agree with him.

For example, later on this evening we will be having the vote on the amendment and the sub-amendment. There is one gentleman sitting in the New Democratic Party caucus who doesn't like elections too often either, yet I am sure he will be standing to be counted as the votes are taken. I am referring to the hon. member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr). The hon. member for Windsor-Riverside—

Interjection.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** —has a private member's notice of motion and I will just read it: "That in the opinion of this House, whenever a minority provincial government is elected in Ontario, no further election should be held for a period of two years thereby assuring a minimum period of security of tenure."

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Like the universities.

**Mr. S. Smith:** With sabbaticals.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** I suppose one might—

**An hon. member:** No sabbaticals.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** I suppose one might expect that when the vote is taken the hon. member will stand by his motion and will not be voting in favour of the amendment.

**Mr. Lewis:** I agree—stop those tenure ripoffs.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** That's right. The next thing we will be asking for is sabbaticals. It is going to happen.

**Mr. Reid:** How about after five years?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** The motions that will be decided this evening by members of this Legislature reflect not only the views of the Liberal Party in Ontario but also reflect the views of the New Democratic Party in this

province, now the official opposition. There are some who wonder whether the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) and his followers can be called power hungry.

I have had the opportunity of observing them for some time, especially in the north, and I really don't think they are power hungry. I don't think that's the right term.

**Mr. Peterson:** They wouldn't know what to do with it.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** I think they are very content to be the official opposition. The amount of plain brown envelopes they receive on a regular basis has increased and that has certainly made them feel better, although one can never be sure whether or not they are legitimate. It might well be that we have somebody sending them to the NDP just to keep their research people busy. I couldn't be happier.

**Mr. Lewis:** The first time that happens, we will send them back.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Of course, that sort of thing—

**Mr. Lewis:** We are waiting.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** —would be beneath any self-respecting and responsible government.

**An hon. member:** Brown paper bags.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** I do not believe that the New Democrats are power hungry. I take the view that they enjoy being relieved of the third party burden in this Legislature. As the third party, we always knew where they stood and that was fundamentally far away from where anyone else stood most of the time.

**Mr. Lewis:** We are standing alone tonight.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** They could be strident. They could be outspoken. They could be benevolent and they could be holier than thou.

**Mr. Reid:** That is tomorrow night. The Treasurer is going to be holier than thou.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Now within the context of being the official opposition they can do all those things on the assumption—and this is, of course, the traditional assumption in the British parliamentary system—that it is their role alone to lead the charge and to lead the opposition to whatever it is that the government may be doing. That basic supposition of negativism, that basic anti-position which is now enshrined in their role, because it is

traditional to our constitution, really assures those within that party who have always had some sense of conscience about whether or not it was appropriate totally to oppose at all times all things put forward by the government of the province. I think it is reassuring to them since, as it makes their job simpler, it makes their task not quite so convoluted. But I guess that's a debate for another time and perhaps another place.

I'd like to touch for a moment upon my ministry. This government committed in the fiscal year of 1975-1976 almost double the previous year's allocation and three times what was spent two years ago. Our spending on housing out of our own resources is more than that of all of the other provinces combined.

**Mr. Nixon:** Tell us how great rent control is.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Oh, would you like to discuss rent control?

**Mr. Nixon:** Go ahead, be my guest.

Interjections.

**Mr. Reid:** Are you going to resign too?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Rent control would not have been a mess if the responsibility that is apparently going to be shown later on this evening would have been shown at the time that bill was being debated by certain members opposite.

The ministry's programmes represent a balanced approach to housing, ranging from increased mortgage funding to interest-free loans and grants to municipalities under the Ontario Housing Action Programme to a wide variety of community planning, socially assisted and renewal programmes aimed at producing new units and preserving the existing ones. In times of constraint our housing budget will not be reflecting the dramatic increases of the previous two years. However, we will continue to be making a very substantial contribution as a province to housing and local planning and likely a far greater contribution than all other provincial governments combined.

In the budget the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) will be bringing down on April 6, several new approaches for housing will be mentioned. There has already been a statement that the Ontario Housing Action Programme will be continued in another form. Following the presentation of the budget, I will be giving more details of these programmes. At the time my estimates are before the House, I will make a full statement in regard to them. I can assure the hon. members that



these will be further examples of this government's concern and initiative in regard to housing, servicing and upgrading of existing communities.

Interjection.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** I'll have to bow to the hon. member until he sends me a report on his trip to Cuba and how things are over there. I understand he was cutting cane; is that right? You must be like Trudeau.

**Mr. MacDonald:** You got him mixed up with Bert Lawrence.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Nixon:** At least he paid his own way down.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** This month we will be bringing forward two reports of considerable interest in the housing field, prepared over the past month by experts in the ministry. One of them will deal with advantages and disadvantages of condominium construction on leasehold land, be it privately or publicly owned. This will be in the nature of a study paper for discussion by the hon. members and throughout the industry.

**Mr. Lewis:** That is great stuff—a terrific contribution to housing.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** The other study which concerns subdivision plans is a study of current standards. Our purpose was to determine the cost effects on housing obtained by reducing the development standards which various provincial and municipal agencies impose on subdivision planning.

**Mr. Reid:** That's not for you.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** I think the events which have transpired in the last year have served to underline some of the positions this government took a year ago and which, as restated in the context of the Throne Speech debate, are indicative of the general sense of understanding which the government I am pleased to represent in this House really does have for the problems facing the people of Ontario.

In addition, I would like to say just a word with respect to my colleague and good friend, the former Minister of Housing, the present Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine). I can recall when he stood up in this House and said there would be an increase in housing starts and some members opposite said that would never

happen. I can recall when he predicted how many housing starts would come on stream and those opposite said it wouldn't happen.

**Mr. Cassidy:** And it didn't happen.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** I can recall when he indicated there would be some fairly fundamental bureaucratic problems with rent control programmes and those across the way thought to ignore that sort of concern. Never has one man's predictions, assertions, intentions and basic instincts with respect to housing been borne out so specifically and effectively by the fact. This province is indeed lucky and fortunate to have had that man in that portfolio at that time.

**Mr. Mancini:** Why don't you resign and let him take over?

**Mr. Roy:** That's why he got a promotion, eh?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** And I, as his successor, am more than prepared to say this evening, on behalf of this party and on behalf of this government, that we were indeed fortunate to have had his services in a very trying job at a trying time.

**Mr. Reid:** It's obvious you didn't write this speech.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** The programme put forward in the Speech from the Throne, for which the Premier (Mr. Davis) has sought the support of all members of the Legislature, is a programme which provides the type of initiatives that will guarantee the economic viability of Ontario and, therefore, the economic security of the people within this province.

The alternative to this type of approach is an approach that would allow major sectors of our society to spend their way out of today's problems with tomorrow's tax dollars. It would allow entire social service and health service delivery systems to become unaffordable, and the types of burden on a society as a whole that would not bode well for their future and, above all, for the people whom they are supposed to serve.

**Mr. S. Smith:** You are reading our campaign literature from the last election.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Recently, in addressing the state house, the recently elected governor of the State of New York indicated that in his view the fundamental reality in North America was that the days of wine and roses were over.

**Mr. S. Smith:** "You can't afford another Davis government," is the way we put it.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** They were over, because there were no more six-point plans and \$12-million programmes to solve long-term difficult problems.

**Mr. Reid:** In 33 years you spent us into that situation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

**Mr. Reid:** In 33 years you put us into that situation.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Those who have been harbingers and exponents of these plans have simply been proven wrong by the weight of history and, the turn of events.

**Mr. Reid:** What a bunch. Who spent us into that situation?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Will the members please refrain from further interjections?

**Mr. Lewis:** Imagine following New York State!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Leader of the Opposition is requested to be quiet. The hon. minister.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Minister of Labour and acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson), in a recent speech indicated that perhaps all governments in North America have been guilty of the assumption that there was no problem too large and no difficulty too costly for government to somehow remedy. She went on to point out that all governments had been guilty of that, including the government of which it is my privilege to be a member and to serve.

**Mr. Nixon:** Remember this time last year when you were remedying the problem?

**Mr. S. Smith:** The repentant sinners.

**Mr. Hodgson:** Keep quiet over there!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** The point that she made, which I think should be implicit in everything that is being said now, is that it would perhaps be typical and partisan and expected for this party to somehow say to the people of Ontario that all the decisions which were made in the past were right and

all the assumptions were correct; that there were no mistakes, no misjudgements.

The general tone of optimism of the 1960s, the expansion of wealth-producing activities within the society of Ontario and societies across North America, and the pre-energy crisis boom, which typified development and growth throughout the western world, were very much part of the reality that successive Progressive Conservative governments in Ontario have had the opportunity to deal with in managing the affairs of this province.

The wealth that was developed at the time—

**Mr. Cassidy:** Needless to say, you were responsible for that.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** —and the borrowing and the buying power that wealth represented, allowed this province to put together the best health delivery system, the best education system, the most equitable, decent and fair social service system in North America. I for one am not prepared to apologize for the decisions made that brought about those respective successes.

**Mr. S. Smith:** And the biggest deficits in history. You were against the Canada Pension Plan.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** But that doesn't mean, Mr. Speaker, that the assumptions that were pertinent, appropriate and, frankly, the only possible assumptions acceptable during those days of government, continue to be acceptable now.

**Mr. Good:** That is why you lost 23 seats. You still don't think you were wrong.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Mr. Speaker, there are those who might say that it is folly for a Progressive Conservative government, elected on Sept. 18, 1975, to suggest that all those decisions made by previous governments of the Progressive Conservative affiliation here in Ontario, are now open to scrutiny. There are some who would say that this affords the opposition a tremendous opportunity to lead a vicious, partisan attack against the party which has governed this province for some time. Those who say that, of course, would be displaying their own rigid severity and political serfdom to the rigidities and the irrationality of an overly partisan view of public responsibility.

**Mr. Nixon:** John, you can't believe that. Who wrote that baloney in?



**Mr. Cassidy:** Did you read it before you came into the House?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Oh yes, I read it.

**Mr. Cassidy:** You are stumbling over the words.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Fewer interjections, please.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** I entered public life because I believed government does have a responsibility to re-examine assessments and assumptions, notwithstanding some of those assessments and assumptions were made—

**Mr. Lewis:** Regardless of which party was the government.

**Mr. Roy:** Even party affiliation, eh?  
[10:00]

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** —by previous forebears, sharing one's own political affiliation. It is interesting; I've listened for over four years now to some of the darts and barbs from members opposite about the changing of political affiliation, and I ask the leader of the Liberal Party to look round and see if he can truly say that behind him sit nothing but true-blue born Liberals. No way. No way.

**Mr. Reid:** There aren't any switchers.

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** You still are. The hon. member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell)—

**Mr. Sargent:** What about Marvin?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** —the hon. member for London North (Mr. Shore). Right? No switchers?

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Mr. Speaker, this government has the intellectual courage in the—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order. Let's have fewer interjections, please, so that we can get on with the business of the House. The hon. minister, please.

**Mr. Shore:** Threaten to turn the lights out again.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** I'll turn the lights out again on them. Mr. Speaker, we are not fighting inflation on the backs of the working people and the poor as some would suggest. We are fighting for a stronger and more optimistic future for the working people of this province, for the poor people of this

province and for all of the citizens of this province by making tough decisions now. Weakness in the face of protest, timidity in the face of dissent, would do greater harm to the future of this province than even a government led by my good friends opposite.

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** The budget presented tomorrow by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), the commitment to Ontario's future which is implicit in other programmes to be announced very shortly, and the specific remedies to ongoing problems suggested by legislation now on the order paper, and that legislation yet to be placed on the paper, constitute the best single formula for guiding Ontario through troubled international economic waters to a brighter and happy economic future for us all. So I appeal to all members of this Legislature to support the government and sustain it in the non-confidence motion that is now before us, put forward by the New Democratic Party.

A little earlier I heard it said by the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) that we were attacking various segments of society. The Speech from the Throne and what will be reflected in the budget tomorrow will show that this government is indeed attacking. It is attacking inflation. It is attacking unnecessary spending. It's attacking the real problems that are facing this province; in fact, the people of all of this country. That's what is being done. That's the sort of attack that is going on, and that's the sort of decisive action that deserves the support of every member of this Legislature; every member of this Legislature.

**Mr. Reid:** And who put us in that situation? Thirty-three years of Conservative government put us in that situation.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** They have stood and criticized continually. They have attempted to make it look as though this government was attempting only to bring down the various tight restraint programmes in an effort to drop them on the backs of the hard-working people of this province. It's the hard-working people of this province who recognize the need to save, the need to cut back on spending, and it's the hard-working people of this province who insist that we cut back on government spending and that's exactly what we're doing. They want it done and they want it done now. If members don't believe, go to the people. So once again I would ask all members—

**Mr. Reid:** Is that one of the Minister of Correctional Services' (Mr. J. R. Smith) reject speeches you are giving?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** —of this House to support the government in this particular vote, and to vote against both the subamendment and the amendment about to be placed in this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Simcoe East.

**Mr. G. E. Smith:** I rise on a point of order just before the question is put. As many hon. members are aware, during the course of this parliament the Deputy Speaker, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), and I as deputy chairman, have refrained from voting in the House in order to demonstrate the neutrality with which we view our offices. The member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) and I both view the division which is about to take place as a very important one, but we continue to feel that our neutrality should be demonstrated before the House. We, therefore, have agreed to pair for this division.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Throne Speech debate now being concluded, I shall call for the vote as follows:

Mr. Villeneuve has moved, seconded by Mr. Grossman, that a humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Hon. Pauline M. McGibbon, OC, BA, LL.D., DU (Ott) BAA (Theatre), Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the legislative assembly of the Province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us.

Mr. Lewis then moved, seconded by Mr. Deans, that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor now before the House be amended by adding thereto the following words:

But this Legislature regrets the inability of this government to meet its responsibility for necessary programmes as a result of the deterioration of the fiscal capacity of the province during successive Progressive Conservative governments;

And further, this Legislature regrets the failure of the government to provide in the Speech from the Throne any significant

proposals to deal with the pressing problems of:

(a) occupational health and the lack of adequate safeguards for the health and safety of workers;

(b) need to preserve agricultural land;

(c) need for a more equitable distribution of economic opportunity throughout the province, and in particular to northern and eastern Ontario;

(d) need for job creation to offset rising unemployment;

(e) inadequate housing supply and rising mortgage interest rates;

And this Legislature moreover regrets the mismanagement of the government's restraint programme leading to:

(a) the failure to develop an overall policy for the delivery of health care services, especially as exemplified by the closing of small community hospitals and public laboratories;

(b) the failure to respond adequately to financial needs for vital social services, particularly as exemplified by the inadequate funding arrangements offered to Children's Aid Societies;

And further still:

This Legislature is opposed to the endless burdening of Ontario taxpayers exemplified both by the excessive increase in municipal property taxes, which will result directly from this government's policy, and by the additional concessions to the mining industry specifically set out in the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

Therefore, the government has lost the confidence of this House.

Mr. S. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Breithaupt, that the amendment to the motion be amended by adding thereto the following:

And this House further condemns the government:

1. For its financial irresponsibility in forcing Ontario municipalities and school boards to increase inordinately the property tax on homeowners and tenants;

2. For its illogical decisions in ordering hospital and laboratory closings without any apparent regard to efficiency and economy of their operations and to the importance of these institutions in the lives of the communities in which they are situated;



3. For its lack of effective planning in its restraint programme which has resulted in punishing financially those least able to afford it.

We will vote first on the amendment to the amendment as moved by Mr. S. Smith.

The House divided on the amendment to the amendment by Mr. S. Smith which was approved on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS
Angus	Auld
Bain	Belanger
Bounsall	Bennett
Breaugh	Bernier
Breithaupt	Birch
Pryden	Brunelle
Bullbrook	Davis
Burr	Drea
Cassidy	Eaton
Conway	Evans
Cunningham	Gregory
Davidson	Grossman
(Cambridge)	Handleman
Davison	Henderson
(Hamilton Centre)	Hodgson
Deans	Irvine
di Santo	Johnson
Dukszta	(Wellington-
Eakins	Dufferin-Peel)
Edighoffer	Johnston
Ferrier	(St. Catharines)
Ferris	Jones
Foulds	Kennedy
Gaunt	Kerr
Germa	Lane
Gigantes	Leluk
Givens	MacBeth
Godfrey	Maeck
Good	McCague
Grande	McKeough
Haggerty	McMurtry
Hall	McNeil
Kerrio	Meen
Laughren	Morrow
Lawlor	Newman
Lewis	(Durham North)
Lupusella	Norton
MacDonald	Parrott
Mackenzie	Rhodes
Makarchuk	Rollins
Mancini	Scrivener
Martel	Smith
McClellan	(Hamilton Mountain)
McEwen	Snow
McKessock	Stephenson
Miller	Taylor
(Haldimand-Norfolk)	Timbrell
Moffatt	Villeneuve

AYES	NAYS
Newman	Welch
(Windsor	Wells
Walkerville)	Williams
Nixon	Wiseman
O'Neil	Yakabuski—48
Peterson	
Philip	
Reed	
(Halton-Burlington)	
Reid	
(Rainy River)	
Renwick	
Roy	
Ruston	
Samis	
Sandeman	
Shore	
Singer	
Smith	
(Nipissing)	
Smith	
(Hamilton West)	
Spence	
Stong	
Swart	
Sweeney	
Warner	
Wildman	
Worton	
Young	
Ziemba—70	
Pair: Stokes and Smith (Simcoe East)	

**Clerk of the House:** Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 70, the "nays" 48. Mr. Stokes and Mr. Smith (Simcoe East) paired.

**Mr. Speaker:** I declare the amendment to the amendment carried.

Order, please. We will now vote on the amended amendment.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Could we get on with the business? Thank you.

Order. We will now vote on the amendment as amended.

Those in favour of Mr. Lewis's amendment as amended will please say "aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the "nays" have it.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think we are all present. We will not need to—order, please. It will not be necessary to ring the bells again. As many as are in favour—

## Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** The bells have rung. The doors are locked and we are all here. I think we can—

## Interjections.

[10:30]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We will get on with the business of the House.

**An hon. member:** Are those in the gallery telling you how to vote, Eddie?

**Mr. Lewis:** Come on, now, Horatio Alger in the gallery.

**Mr. Speaker:** I didn't see him. I can't see him.

**An hon. member:** There he is.

**Mr. Speaker:** We will place the motion.  
As many as are in favour—

**Mr. Deans:** The bells must ring. We demand it.

**Mr. Speaker:** You insist on it? All right, I put the question: May we proceed with the vote without ringing the bells?

**Some hon. members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** Call in the members.

The House divided on the amendment by Mr. Lewis, which was negatived on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS	
Angus	Auld	Lawlor
Bain	Belanger	Lewis
Bounsall	Bennett	Lupusella
Breaugh	Bernier	MacDonald
Bryden	Birch	Mackenzie
Burr	Breithaupt	Makarchuk
Cassidy	Brunelle	Martel
Davidson	Bullbrook	McClellan
(Cambridge)	Conway	Moffatt
Davison	Cunningham	Philip
(Hamilton Centre)	Davis	Renwick
Deans	Drea	Samis
di Santo	Eakins	Sandeman
Dukszta	Eaton	Swart
Ferrier	Edighoffer	Warner
Foulds	Evans	Wildman
Germa	Ferris	Young
Gigantes	Gaunt	Ziemba—37
Godfrey	Givens	
Grande	Good	
Laughren	Gregory	
		Grossman
		Haggerty
		Hall
		Handleman
		Henderson
		Hodgson
		Irvine
		Johnson
		(Wellington- Dufferin-Peel)
		Johnston
		(St. Catharines)
		Jones
		Kennedy
		Kerr
		Kerrio
		Lane
		Leluk
		MacBeth
		Maeck
		Mancini
		McCague
		McEwen
		McKeough
		McKessock
		McMurtry
		McNeil
		Meen
		Miller
		(Haldimand-Norfolk)
		Morrow
		Newman
		(Durham North)
		Newman
		(Windsor-Walkerville)
		Nixon
		Norton
		O'Neil
		Parrott
		Peterson
		Reed
		(Halton-Burlington)
		Reid
		(Rainy River)
		Rhodes
		Rollins
		Roy
		Ruston
		Scrivener
		Shore
		Singer
		Smith
		(Hamilton Mountain)
		Smith
		(Nipissing)
		Smith
		(Hamilton West)
		Snow
		Spence



## NAYS

Stephenson

Stong

Sweeney

Taylor

Timbrell

Villeneuve

Welch

Wells

Williams

Wiseman

Worton

Yakabuski—81

Pair: Stokes and Smith (Simcoe East)

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 37, the "nays" 81.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the amendment as amended lost. We will vote now on the main motion.

The House divided on the main motion, which was approved on the second vote reversed.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion carried.

Resolved: That a humble address be presented to the Hon. Pauline M. McGibbon, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario:

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the legislative assembly of the Province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow afternoon we will go to the order paper and consider legislation that is there. Tomorrow evening we will have a message from the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough).

Mr. Reid: The bad news.

Mr. Lewis: He could say anything he wants to.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

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 Henderson, Hon. L. C.; Minister without Portfolio (Lambton PC)  
 Hodgson, W. (York North PC)  
 Johnston, R. M. (St. Catharines PC)  
 Kerrio, V. (Niagara Falls L)  
 Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)  
 Lewis, S.; Leader of the Opposition (Scarborough West NDP)  
 MacDonald, D. C. (York South NDP)  
 Maeck, L. (Parry Sound PC)  
 Makarchuk, M. (Brantford NDP)  
 Mancini, R. (Essex South L)  
 Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)  
 McClellan, R. (Bellwoods NDP)  
 McKeough, Hon. W. D.; Treasurer, Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs  
     (Chatham-Kent PC)  
 Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)  
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 Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L)  
 Rhodes, Hon. J. R.; Minister of Housing (Sault Ste. Marie PC)  
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 Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)  
 Samis, G. (Cornwall NDP)  
 Sargent, E. (Grey-Bruce L)  
 Shore, M. (London North L)  
 Singer, V. M. (Wilson Heights L)  
 Smith, G. E. (Simcoe East PC)  
 Smith, S. (Hamilton West L)  
 Stephenson, Hon. B.; Minister of Labour and acting Minister of Health (York Mills PC)  
 Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)  
 Warner, D. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)  
 Welch, Hon. R.; Minister of Culture and Recreation (Brock PC)  
 Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)





Legislative Assembly

# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

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Tuesday, April 6, 1976

Afternoon Session

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Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

THE QUEEN'S PRINTER  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, TORONTO  
1976

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

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TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

## POINT OF PRIVILEGE

**Mr. Mackenzie:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Hamilton East with a point of privilege.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** In the House last night, Mr. Speaker, there was a rather unfortunate fall in the public gallery. I understand it's not the first one. It involved my constituency secretary, from my riding office, who is in some considerable pain today as a result of that fall. I had asked her to come over to the House last night.

I have spent some time up in the gallery this morning, going up and down the stairs where the fall occurred, checking the steps, checking the lighting and checking the railings. There is certainly, especially at night, inadequate lighting in those galleries and certainly a need for some light right at the stair level because of the different floor levels. There is a need for a railing of some kind at either end where one comes down. The lady suffered a rather severe cut on her wrist because there are almost razor sharp edges on the brass leaves on the metalwork at either end of the gallery.

It would seem to me that it would be in order for the Speaker to take a look at the safety measures in the gallery. It seems to me that if we had a safety inspector check it we'd be in real trouble in this House. I would request your office to take a look at the safety measures in the public galleries.

**Mr. Speaker:** In brief response, we are having a look at all these matters which the hon. member has raised and we certainly assure you that we will take whatever action it would appear necessary to improve the situation. They are dangerous steps to begin with, but I think we are very fortunate that we haven't had more mishaps.

## ZAMBIA HIGH COMMISSIONER

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. members, a distinguished guest whom we have in our Speaker's gallery today in the person of His Excellency, Wilson Mofya Chakulya, the High Commissioner of Zambia to Canada.

## OLYMPIC SKI TEAM

**Hon. Mr. Welch:** Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce to the House this afternoon, the members of Canada's Olympic ski team, who are seated in Mr. Speaker's gallery.

I am sure we are all pleased to welcome back again our gold medal winner, Kathy Kreiner, along with her sister Laurie, accompanied by Ken Read and Rob Safrata, Steve Podborski, Dave Irwin and Jim Hunter; I'm sorry that Dave Murray isn't able to be with them.

They are accompanied by coaches Scott Henderson and Lyn MacIntosh along with Keith Nesbitt, Luc Dubois and Ed Champagne from the Canadian National Alpine Ski Association.

As a group, they are bringing special honour to Ontario and Canada and on behalf of all of us, may I assure them of the appreciation for all that they do on behalf of the people of Ontario and Canada.

**Mr. Lewis:** You will be taxing their equipment tonight.

**Mr. Speaker:** Statements by the ministry.

## MOOSONEE FORCES BASE

**Hon. Mr. Brunelle:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that the Moosonee Development Area Board has entered into negotiations with the federal Department of Public Works to accept the assets of the Canadian Forces Station in Moosonee.

Members will recall that on Jan. 17, 1975, the federal Department of National Defence announced the closing of the base effective Aug. 1, 1975. Immediately following the announcement, a committee of local citizens

from Moosonee and Moose Factory, including representatives of the native people and the white community, was established to determine the best uses for the base assets.

As a result of some months of deliberation, it was determined a major component use would be the development of a secondary school complex utilizing some of the buildings on the base. The concept was approved by the Minister of Education on Oct. 1, 1975, and a principal was hired on Nov. 25, 1975.

On Feb. 1, 1976, the James Bay Lowlands Secondary School District was formed, with the board to take office on April 1, 1976.

Disposal of other assets is proceeding, with 25 houses to be transferred to Moose Factory island and 50 houses to be assigned to the Ontario rural and native housing programme.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the best possible use is being made of the assets of the base in providing housing for people and in developing a secondary school complex on that site.

#### INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add to my remarks in reply to a question asked on March 17, concerning investment funds at Seneca College.

Prior to 1971, there was no need and very little opportunity for a college to accumulate a reserve. Funding was done on a budget-review basis, similar to the Management Board/ministries process. When funds were required by a college to replace equipment or to meet various needs as they arose, these were requested of the ministry and allowed or disallowed, depending upon the relative merits of the situation.

In 1971, the decision was taken to place the colleges on a funding basis similar to that of the universities—essentially a BIU approach keyed to student enrolment. This change placed an extra responsibility on the individual boards of governors to husband their available funds carefully. Instead of just meeting routine operating expenses as they occurred, they now had to plan and budget to provide for equipment replacement, contingencies relating to wage and salary adjustments or arbitration awards, inflation, enrolment fluctuations, etc. It was made clear to the boards of governors that they could not expect any additional assistance from the government to meet deficits on operations.

Consequently, the boards undertook to set aside reserves to meet perceived needs and

contingencies to the extent they were able to do so. The anticipated needs and the capability to set aside funds varied from college to college depending upon many factors some of which were: The age and condition of plant and equipment; the cost of servicing the respective community; the particular impact of the near-moratorium on capital.

In addition, in 1974, the colleges were advised by the ministry to set aside an appropriate amount against an anticipated wage and salary arbitration award. In 1975, they were again advised to set aside an appropriate amount against the next settlement. Indeed, a preliminary survey indicates that at the end of the 1975-1976 fiscal year, the amount available for short-term investments is reduced by \$17 million, largely because of implementing salary and wage settlements.

These reserves in the college system have, for the most part, been in the form of short-term paper. The general level of reserves and surpluses across the whole system is not held to be inappropriate but reflects responsible management on the part of the boards of governors.

Some shortcomings were identified in an approach to CAAT funding based on student enrolment and in the spring of 1975 the Council of Regents was requested to recommend a better approach.

A special task force was organized, consisting of the members of the Council of Regents, two college presidents, two members of the boards of governors and ministry staff. Subsequently, the Council of Regents recommended a new formula approach to the minister in December, 1975, which was accepted and is now being implemented for the first time.

Concurrent with this work, the consulting firm of Woods Gordon was engaged to review the practices relating to reserves set aside by the colleges and to recommend guidelines. This report and another report prepared by an ad hoc committee of presidents on surpluses and reserves are now being considered in the context of the new formula approach. It is understood that the Council of Regents will be considering a draft set of guidelines on reserves and surpluses at its April meeting and, assuming that these meet with my approval, it is probable that the colleges will receive definitive guidelines on reserves and surpluses by May of this year.

In the meantime it is prudent for colleges to carry reasonable working balances to meet the expenditures they expect to incur. These balances are described in the colleges' financial statements as either operating surplus or



deficit, or reserves for specific purposes such as the replacement of equipment.

**Mr. Lewis:** Such as what?

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** Such as replacement of equipment. The total of such balances in the college system at March 31, 1975, was approximately \$25 million or nine per cent of the total college expenditure in 1974-1975.

In addition, the college financial statements include among the reserves a sum calculated to meet specific unavoidable expenditures; these expenditures, as reported at March 31, 1975, include such items as retroactive salary increases and accrued sick leave credits which would become payable at any time. Finally, it is obviously necessary to have funds available to pay the day-to-day bills due to the colleges' creditors. These liabilities reach a combined total of \$36 million in the college system.

Since it is prudent to carry reasonable funds in excess of immediate needs, it is equally prudent to invest them. At March 31, 1975, a total of \$58 million was invested by the colleges. Effectively it consists of two packages: All the \$25 million in working balance is invested; \$23 million of the funds required to meet the \$36 million liability is invested because not all of the liability is immediately payable.

Reference has been made in the press to college investment portfolios. These are not portfolios as ordinarily understood; it is merely the result of keeping money in interest-bearing deposits until it is actually needed. The personal equivalent is putting one's money into a savings account which one transfers into a chequing account when one wants to spend it.

[2:15]

Turning specifically to Seneca College, the college's own investment schedule at March 31, 1975, shows a total of \$3,026,000. This was available because: 1. The college's surplus and reserves amounted to eight per cent of the year's expenditure compared with the nine per cent average of all colleges, and that amount was \$1.6 million.

2. There was a time lag between the college receiving its revenues and the actual payment of \$2.3 million liabilities anticipated on its March 31, 1975, balance sheet. This permitted the college to maximize its reserve by investing cash not immediately paid out, amounting to \$1.4 million.

Further to my reply to the initial inquiry about Seneca's investments, I reiterate that the present level of reserves is quite acceptable. As I said in the House on March 17,

1976, I would like to stress that I would not want to criticize a community college for building a reserve if this can be achieved through good management. There is every reason for such funds to be used appropriately for purposes for which they were designated.

However, I must express my concern over the nature of the investments chosen by Seneca for its reserves. I have been assured that the other colleges have invested their reserve funds in short-term notes. Seneca College, however, holds a combination of short-term notes and long-term bonds. I disagree with the college maintaining its reserves in long-term bonds. Consequently, I have directed Seneca College's board of governors to provide me, before the end of this month, with an acceptable plan for bringing Seneca College's investments into line with those of other colleges.

Once again referring to the overall college system, I would repeat that the general level of reserves maintained across the system is not inappropriate. However, we are aware that one of the smaller colleges has accumulated a level of reserves disproportionate to its needs. The new formula will permit us to correct this anomaly and the new investment guidelines will prevent its recurrence.

I will also forward to the critics of the parties opposite the details of the investment funds of all 22 community colleges.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** On a point of privilege, I hope appropriately so, if we are not televising is it necessary that we have the additional lights?

**Mr. Lewis:** We are televising. It is most important.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Is that right? I'm glad I made it.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** There is the cameraman up there.

**Mr. Deans:** Is the member for Hastings-Peterborough the dealer?

**Mr. Reid:** What time does the game start?

**Mr. Martel:** It's even blue.

**An hon. member:** Tory blue at that.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Are you selling those?

**Mr. Rollins:** A dollar and a quarter.

**Mr. Lewis:** You just saw "California Split," did you, and it turned you on? I'm glad something does.

**Mr. Speaker:** Oral questions.

## INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

**Mr. Lewis:** May I address a question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities? First, do universities, as distinct from community colleges, have public money—not private endowments but public moneys—which they use for the investment purposes, short- and long-term, that he just outlined for community colleges?

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** As the member is well aware, the universities have quite a different responsibility in reporting those funds from that of the community colleges. I do not have those details here but there are funds in the system—

**Mr. Lewis:** Public funds?

**Mr. MacDonald:** Surplus from our grants?

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** Similar to the kinds of funds any institution, any business, would need whether it's for cash flow or payment of debt. Those types of funds obviously are there and are required in short-term investments. Now whether they have similar long-term investments I can't answer, but I will.

**Mr. Lewis:** Thank you. By way of supplementary, can the minister give a broader rationale or can he explain the appropriateness of what amounts to a channelling of public money to private boards in the community college system to invest in the long term? How does the minister justify that use of public money?

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** It was a long statement, but I tried to say very clearly that I disagree with long-term investments of public funds.

**Mr. Speaker:** Supplementary, the member for Sarnia.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I'm wondering, relevant to the statement that was made, could the minister disclose the name of the community college which now has, in his opinion disproportionate reserves?

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** One of the smaller colleges, Lambton, has a very large number of dollars relative to its budget.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** One additional supplementary: Could the minister tell me what the reserve position of Lambton is at the present time and where its investments are made?

**An hon. member:** Because Lorne's from there.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** That's exactly the college I thought it was. My college.

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** I can give the hon. member the number of dollars. I cannot tell him at this precise moment, although that information is readily available, where the investments are made. The combined surplus is \$2,102,000; the short-term investments were larger than that, \$2.3 million. However, I'm advised that because of some of the requirements for settlements, as I suggested in my statement, that reserve is reduced now to some degree. I would also repeat that we intend to establish guidelines, that the new funding method will take into full account that this reserve is in excess and that we will deal with that problem in the future years of funding.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** If I might be permitted one final supplementary—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please, I think the hon. member has had two.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** One more, Mr. Speaker. You recognize it is my community college—

**Mr. Speaker:** Sorry. I do appreciate that.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** —and it is their obscene reserves I've been talking about over the years.

**Mr. Foulds:** I thought it was Lorne Henderson's community college.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member may ask another question in a moment.

**Mr. Lewis:** I have a further supplementary. In the light of what the minister is revealing today, with some obvious discomfort, is it not time to end the practice of these accumulated reserves, other than the short-term cash flow requirements, which we all understand? Isn't it time to end the situation where \$25 million of public money builds up, perhaps inappropriately invested in Ontario this way?

**An hon. member:** Give Lorne a sabbatical

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** Again, I refer back to my statement where I say that we are establishing guidelines, and by May of this year we will—

**Mr. Lewis:** We don't need guidelines; just end it.

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** I agree; I'm not disagreeing with that position at all, but we have these two studies and we intend to consider them. Prior to this date, the Council of Regents



were asked by this ministry to advise on that matter; and as soon as their April meeting is over I hope they will be able to do so.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. member for Sarnia wish to ask a further supplementary?

**Mr. Bullbrook:** I just want to ask if the minister would agree with my characterization, made over the years, of the reserve position of Lambton College, especially in the context of the need of restraint, totally as far as the government is concerned, that those reserves are obscene.

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** Oh I would caution the members of this House to use one community college out of 22 to draw conclusions that are unjustified against the other 21.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** But they're under your ministry!

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** I agree with the member opposite that the investment dollars of one college were in excess and we intend to do something about it.

**Mr. Speaker:** A final supplementary on this question; the member for Kitchener-Wilmot.

**Mr. Sweeney:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the response to the original question on Seneca, but may I ask the minister if he would give some direction to the Council of Regents to take into consideration the complaints of the faculty and the students that in fact that reserve fund was built up because annual operating needs were not being met? Their claim is that, in fact, equipment purchases in the last two years have not been made—not just replacements, but new equipment. That's one of the things we're against. Would the minister give such direction?

**Hon. Mr. Parrott:** I would think the member would expect that the board of governors would use their funds in the most appropriate fashion, not only to renew the facility itself but indeed to keep the educational process at a very adequate level. I believe that institution is doing that, and this year's funding mechanism recognizes that there are, indeed two components to the system: one, the plant operation; and two, for lack of a better word at the moment, the educational process. We recognize that was perhaps a weakness in the previous funding method. This year was the first attempt, and it will be improved. There is a review mechanism established in that process for the various colleges and we think, given another year's experience, that the member's request will be honoured.

## STUDY OF ONTARIO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS

**Mr. Lewis:** A question to the acting Minister of Health if I may. Back on Jan. 20 I wrote to the Minister of Health asking for the rationalization study of the psychiatric hospitals in Ontario and have raised it since. Is it possible for the acting minister to table that study in response to the question?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the study. I shall find out if it is possible to do so.

## ASBESTOS PROBLEM AT HEDMAN MINES LTD.

**Mr. Lewis:** A separate question, Mr. Speaker: Back on Mar. 4 I wrote to Dr. Fitch, the assistant director of the occupational health protection branch, about a problem at Hedman Mines Ltd. around asbestos, revealed from the ministry's own information. Nothing was forthcoming. I wrote again on Mar. 26 and nothing is forthcoming. Can the minister get a reply for me?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I shall try.

## ASBESTOS-CANCER STUDY

**Mr. Lewis:** One further question for the acting Minister of Health: What caused her to say that there was no link between asbestos and stomach or gastro-intestinal cancer?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I think the remark I made was that there is no positive correlation presently factually understood between asbestos and gastro-intestinal cancer. There is some incidence correlation which has been reported by certain workers, but this has not been borne out in other investigations. It is certainly something which is under study at the moment, but there is not a positive correlation.

**Mr. Lewis:** By way of supplementary, the minister surely realizes that Dr. Charles Stewart, at the Workmen's Compensation Board, and Dr. Ritchie, pathologist at the University of Toronto, are at this very moment about to produce a paper, through her as the minister I guess, to demonstrate whether or not there is this link, and isn't it a bit premature to make these judgements in advance?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I was not making a judgement, I was simply reporting on current medical knowledge in this area. That paper has not, as yet, been pro-

duced. I shall be interested to see it, sir, when it is.

**Mr. Foulds:** Is the minister making a distinction between medical and scientific evidence? I ask that in view of the research done by Pontefract and Cunningham with regard to cancers caused by asbestos in experimental animals like rats and baboons.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I was really talking about medical scientific research and reports, and there is a difference. There are certainly some differences in sensitivity between certain laboratory animals and human beings.

#### DON BERE HOMES LTD.

**Mr. Lewis:** One last question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations if I may: Is the minister aware of the Don Bere development on Admiral Rd. in London and the problems the tenants in that development—Fairhaven is the name it goes under—have experienced since rent control legislation was introduced?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** To the best of my recollection I haven't heard about that particular situation, no.

**Mr. Lewis:** I believe correspondence has gone to the minister. Could I, by way of supplementary, ask him to look at it? Apparently there is a major conversion under way to sell all the properties, with considerable problems for the tenants involved, and I wondered whether the minister could respond to their anxiety?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of situations of that nature, and I will certainly search out the correspondence which the Leader of the Opposition mentions and give him a reply as quickly as possible.

#### RENT INCREASES

**Mr. S. Smith:** A question of the Minister of Housing: Could the minister explain why one of his officials, Mr. White, in the Hamilton Housing Authority, has confirmed that tenants there are being asked to sign leases three months in advance of the commencement of the lease and, in fact, for rents in excess of the eight per cent increase? Apparently Mr. White feels these are instructions he received from OHC.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot comment on that. I will certainly look into the matter and get the information for the hon.

member. I think, though, I should point out that it may be an official of the Hamilton Housing Authority, not an official of the ministry, who is making this statement. I will certainly look into that for the member.

[2:30]

**Mr. S. Smith:** By way of supplementary: Has the minister spoken to those people in his ministry who indicated to us they do give instructions to the Hamilton Housing Authority? Can he tell us whether he has instructed the housing authorities to inform tenants fully of their rights under the Landlord and Tenant Act?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, the housing authorities have been advised that the Ministry of Housing, or Ontario Housing Corp. rather, will abide by the regulations laid out in the rent review legislation. We are not to be treated any differently nor are the tenants to be treated any differently from any other tenant in any accommodation in this province. If those directions are not being followed, we will certainly see that they are.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Thank you. That's the situation in Hamilton and I will be grateful to the minister if he will look into it.

#### TRUCKERS' BLOCKADE

**Mr. S. Smith:** To the Minister of Transportation and Communications: In view of the traffic blockade by some Detroit teamsters at the Windsor border, which has piled up 50 trucks on this side and caused quite a problem for Ontario business people, particularly in the farming industry, what action has the minister taken to ensure that Ontario goods can move freely at the border? Has he been in contact with the Michigan government or does he intend to do anything about it?

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of this problem but I will certainly look into it.

#### ANAESTHETIC SYSTEM INSTALLATION

**Mr. S. Smith:** To the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: As a follow-up to my question of March 16, I wonder if the minister has had some time to think about the regulation of hospital anaesthetic systems, which at that time he promised to look into, regarding its inclusion in the Ontario Building Code? Has he looked into it and can he now report to us on that situation?



**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I don't have all of the details at my fingertips but I have looked into it and we find that there was not only consultation but almost complete direction from the Ministry of Health in the establishment of the standards. The hospitals were also involved in providing input and we understand that the situation is very well in hand. They are all accepting these and the coroner's report gave a great deal of guidance as to the method of installation of this kind of equipment.

**Mr. S. Smith:** A supplementary: Is the minister aware that although the regulations are excellent, the difficulty is in their application—which presently falls under the Ontario Building Code and consequently is a municipal responsibility—in this highly specialized and dangerous area? Would the minister consider, for administration, bringing it under a provincial body which could have one expert who could look after the whole province instead of leaving it to chance in each municipality? That's what we are worried about—that there not be a repetition of the Sudbury problem.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Mr. Speaker, I am certainly prepared to consider any suggestion which would improve the service and I would be quite ready to take it under advisement.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has the answer to a question which was asked previously, I believe.

#### LICENSING OF LAY PREACHER TO PERFORM MARRIAGES

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday, March 29, the member for Fort William (Mr. Angus) asked me a question regarding the licensing of a lay preacher, Mr. Sanadius Fiddler, to perform marriages in native communities in north-western Ontario.

I would like to inform the member and the House that I have now written to the chairman of the personnel committee of the Cambrian Presbytery of the United Church of Canada informing him that registration is being granted to Mr. Fiddler.

**Mr. Speaker:** Questions. The hon. member for Wentworth.

#### WENTWORTH TEACHERS' NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Deans:** Thank you, I am sorry; I was dreaming. I have a question for the Minister of Education.

Is the Minister of Education aware that the negotiations between the Wentworth Board of Education and its secondary school teachers have reached an impasse and that there has been little if any negotiation taking place in the last short while? Is he also aware that there have been two mediators involved now and there has not been any real progress made; and that the Wentworth county board has refused to negotiate with the elementary teachers until after the secondary school contracts are completed?

Will the minister personally review the situation with regard to the Wentworth county's attitude toward its teachers and its responsibility to the public; and whether or no the teachers' requests are reasonable or otherwise; and use whatever influence he might have to try to avoid what will ultimately be a strike?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** Mr. Speaker, of course I would be very happy to become as familiar as my friend is with exactly what's happening in Wentworth. I might point out to him that—I am sure the teachers in that area know it—that if they feel the board is not negotiating in good faith they can make such a charge before the Education Relations Commission which will be happy to hold a hearing and attempt to bring whichever party is not negotiating in good faith back to the bargaining table to do so. I'd be happy to find out exactly what's happening. I know things aren't moving as smoothly in the Wentworth secondary bargaining situation as they should be, but we're always hopeful.

**Mr. Deans:** One supplementary question, if I may: Does the minister feel it proper that the board should refuse to negotiate with elementary panel representatives simply because it has been unable to reach an agreement with the secondary school teacher representatives? Does the minister not feel there is something terribly wrong with that board?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** Mr. Speaker, I have learned from long experience in these matters that I'd like to familiarize myself completely with the details of what's happening before I make any comment on a statement such as the hon. member has made. Not that I doubt what he's saying but I'd like to know exactly what both sides feel.

**Mr. Cunningham:** Mr. Speaker, given that the date in the school year is somewhat late and the public school teachers are also working without a contract—I think it's the only board in Ontario which has neither a contract for the public school teachers or the secondary school teachers—would the minister

be willing to intervene personally this week so that a strike could be avoided?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** Mr. Speaker, I think I indicated a few minutes ago that certainly if what the previous hon. member indicated is correct—that the board refuses to negotiate with the elementary school teachers because it has not got a contract with the secondary school teachers—I think those elementary school teachers should now or should have a few weeks ago put a case of bad-faith bargaining before the Education Relations Commission. Certainly that is the place that should go and the commission should make some determination.

**Mr. Foulds:** Could the minister indicate how many charges of bad-faith bargaining have been laid before the Education Relations Commission and the disposition of those charges?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** From memory, as I recall, there was a charge of bad-faith bargaining made against us by the provincial school teachers and I believe the commission's finding was that we were not bargaining in bad faith.

There is a charge of bad-faith bargaining, I think, on the table regarding the Central Algoma situation, which has not been heard and which is presently part of the total process which is going on to try to bring that dispute to some finalization.

I think there have been some other charges—I think there was one in Peel—but I think they were withdrawn before any hearings were held.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Somebody intervened.

#### CLEANING CONTRACTS AT QUEEN'S PARK

**Mrs. Campbell:** Mr. Speaker, my question is of the Minister of Labour, if I may. With all of her duties, is the minister aware of the problems surrounding the Portuguese women cleaning under contract at Queen's Park?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am.

**Mrs. Campbell:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: If that is the case, does she not believe she should ensure that such contracts incorporate scrupulous adherence to the provisions of the Employment Standards Act legislation on prohibition of sex discrimination by job classification?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I was under the strong impression that sex discrimination by job classification was, if not totally eliminated, almost completely so at this time.

**Mrs. Campbell:** Mr. Speaker, that not being the case, I wonder if the minister would look into the matter? Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Solicitor General has the answer to a question asked previously.

#### POLICE USE OF PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS' FILES

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 2 of this year, the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) asked me a question concerning police investigation of psychiatric unit records at Toronto Western Hospital.

On Thursday, Dec. 11, 1975, two members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police proceeded to the Toronto Western Hospital psychiatric unit. They sought information as to what patients, if any, were absent from the unit during the evening of Nov. 7, 1975. This information was being sought as part of the investigation into the murder of Marion Peters. The officers were informed that this information would only be provided under the authority of a search warrant. On Friday, Dec. 12, 1975, the officers, armed with a search warrant, returned to the hospital. As a result, they were provided with the names of seven persons who were absent from the psychiatric unit on Nov. 7, 1975. The officers subsequently sought information as to whether or not the patients in question would be capable of committing such an act. The reply was in the negative.

I understand that the officers had no further contact with the staff of the psychiatric unit of the Toronto Western Hospital, no files were seized or examined by the officers. I have a report from the Metropolitan Toronto Police and I would like to table that, Mr. Speaker, if I may. It's a little fuller.

**Mr. Breaugh:** Supplementary: The minister is saying quite definitively that they did not look at the files at all. They were simply looking at attendance. Is that correct?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** That is my understanding from the report I have received.

**Mr. Breaugh:** How do we balance the statement of the man who supposedly ran that unit, who said they did have the files, with the report the minister just read to us now which says they really didn't look at



files at all, that they simply wanted to know whether the people were there or not? There seems to be quite a conflict there.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** I can't account for any conflict of that nature. There might be. I have tabled a fuller report, and I suggest the hon. member for Oshawa should look that over and then, if he wants further information, I'll try to get it for him.

### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES' NEGOTIATIONS

**Ms. Sandeman:** A question for the Minister of Labour and/or the acting Minister of Health: Could the minister please report on the progress of negotiations with 35 groups of public health nurses across the province? At least one of these groups has been without a contract since June of last year and many of them without contracts since Jan. of this year.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** In company with the deputy ministers of both Labour and Health, I met about two weeks ago with the Ontario Nurses' Association, representing the public health nurses and two groups of VON nurses. Last week we met with the representatives of the association of boards of health for the Province of Ontario. I am pleased to report that I think for the first time we made some progress and, hopefully within the next two weeks, I shall have further news to report about this situation.

**Mr. Good:** Supplementary: Could the minister inform the House whether or not a complaint of not bargaining in good faith has been laid by the nurses in the Peterborough area, where I believe there have been words to that effect bandied about?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** To my knowledge, no such complaint has been laid before the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

### SLUDGE STORAGE

**Mr. Reed:** I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Does the minister consider there is sufficient storage to hold sludge from sewage treatment plants in Ontario during the months the contractors are unable to spread it on the land, and does he consider the standards for that storage to be sufficient?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** I think the hon. member is talking about a disposal site in his own riding,

not too far from his farm, as a matter of fact where there is an abandoned—

**Mr. Reid:** How does he get it to his farm?

**An hon. member:** Oh, he wouldn't be asking about that.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Tell us it is not true.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** —an abandoned quarry, I believe, that is being used by the contractor hauling sludge. There is no question that right about now the quarry is filling up, and as the warm weather comes along they will be able to get rid of that sludge, including at the hon. members own farm, which I'm sure is one of the recipients. I have had that request this morning from the mayor of Halton Hills and I promised him I would look into it. Hopefully we can get rid of the problems as far as that neighbourhood is concerned very shortly.

**Mr. Reed:** I wonder if the minister could tell us what standards his ministry has for those holding basins? Is he aware that the particular storage facility in question is not a quarry but an old sand pit, which is quite porous and open?

[2:45]

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** The hon. member is right, it is a pit; but I believe there were certain pouring operations there a few years ago. We have to satisfy ourselves that the site is safe from the point of view of contamination of the water tables and that has been done. The man has a permit to dump the sludge there; and from that point of view it is satisfactory. However, from the neighbourhood point of view, at this point it isn't satisfactory, and the hon. member knows why.

**Mr. Reed:** Supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** This will be the final supplementary.

**Mr. Reed:** What standards does the ministry impose before granting a licence to hold that sludge?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** As I indicated, it must be environmentally safe in every way. It should be located in an area where it won't be a nuisance to the neighbourhood, to the people adjoining the pit, for example, or the site. There should be a reasonable distance so that the smell, particularly, won't aggravate the neighbourhood. That is the main reason. As to the question of traffic to that site, spillage is a problem, for example. These are all the things we look at.

**Hon. W. Newman:** It grows good crops, though.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Energy has the answer to a question asked previously.

### PICKERING NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) and the hon. member for Sudbury (Mr. Germa) asked me questions on Friday following my statement on the Pickering No. 4 unit. I can now give some additional information in response to those questions and inform the House of the current status in this regard.

Unit 4 at Ontario Hydro's Pickering nuclear generating station will be back in service within one week if repairs which are now in progress prove to be successful. Hydro has been able to plug a hole in the damaged generator conductor and is now in the process of replacing the insulation which is around it.

If, however, tests prove the work to be unsuccessful, the unit is not likely to return to operation for up to several months. Hydro will then be forced to dismantle a large section of the generator in order to gain full access to the damaged area.

The total cost of repairs will not be known until the unit returns to full power. The cost of replacing energy from the No. 4 unit with electricity produced in fossil-fired plants has been estimated by Hydro at up to an additional \$5,000 per hour.

The damaged conductor is a very large hollow piece of copper. It is cooled by circulating water and it is located in the conventional or non-nuclear section of the unit.

The work was done under Ontario Hydro's supervision, partly by its own forces and partly by workers from the generator manufacturer, Howden-Parsons.

At this time it appears that it will be almost impossible to determine who left the threading tool in the unit.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR CARLETON FRENCH-LANGUAGE STUDENTS

**Ms. Gigantes:** Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Education: Is the minister aware of the urgent need for a statement from his ministry regarding accommodation for 900 francophone students under the Carleton board's jurisdiction? Is the minister aware of an urgent request from the advisory committee to the Carleton board for a meeting

with the minister before April 12, when they have to make a decision?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** Mr. Speaker, just as background, perhaps I might tell the hon. member that I met on Feb. 23 with both the Carleton board and the Ottawa board about this problem and asked our regional director to work with the boards. The Carleton board would like the Ottawa board to sell them or lease them one of its schools. The Ottawa board is not so inclined.

The Ottawa board is providing the education for those francophone students from the Carleton board at the present time, and I saw no indication that the education being provided was in any way inferior. The Carleton board, however, has indicated it would like to have those students under its own jurisdiction in its own school, which is a commendable thing. But I think it has to be also pointed out we could find no indication that the education that those francophone students are receiving is in any way inferior.

I have asked our regional director to work with the two boards to see if we can't help them come up with some solution.

**Ms. Gigantes:** Supplementary: Is the minister saying no, he will not meet with the advisory committee to the Carleton board? Is that my understanding? Am I correct?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** Mr. Speaker, I might say that my friend, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) has been in touch with me daily about this particular problem—

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Including Sundays.

**Mr. Foulds:** Even while you were away in Florida?

**Mr. Yakabuski:** He has been on top of the problem from the beginning.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** In fact, he has made some suggestions to me about how we should handle the matter—

**Mr. Lewis:** I am sure.

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** —but they are not really acceptable to some of the Ottawa people. We do have a problem here; but if the advisory committee would like to meet with me some time, along with the boards, this could be arranged. I just want to assure them that I'm very much aware of the situation and the problem. At this point in time, if they would meet with our regional people there, I think



that's the way we can try to get some solution to the problem.

**Ms. Gigantes:** Supplementary: Is the minister aware that the Carleton board will be meeting on April 12 to decide what accommodation they will have next year for 900 francophones and that it is very urgent for that board and the francophone advisory committee to know the provincial stand when it holds that meeting and takes decisions at that meeting?

**Hon. Mr. Wells:** I haven't had any indication from the Carleton board, although I understand they were talking to some people last week; but if they'd like us to indicate some particular stand we have on this matter, I think I can give it to them by April 12. I have to tell them also, though, that there is not any money available for the building of new schools at the present time.

**Mr. Cassidy:** In the same vein, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister: What steps is the minister prepared to take in order to ensure the commitment to provide a French secondary school, which was made by the Essex County Board of Education, will be fulfilled—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is not a supplementary to this question.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Very much so, Mr. Speaker.

#### RADIOACTIVITY AT PORT HOPE

**Mr. Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, a question to the acting Minister of Health: Is she prepared to assure this House that the results of the testing going on in Port Hope for radon gas levels will be made public?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, the testing going on at the moment is being carried out both by the Ministry of Health, on occasion and by the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada. If it is possible to get all of the results from the Atomic Energy Control Board, I think we might seriously consider announcing to those individuals who are affected directly, and to those individuals who are living in areas close to the areas where there has been radiation, the specific levels which relate to their particular domicile.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Why the secrecy?

**Mr. Peterson:** Supplementary: Could the minister tell me why this information will not be made public for general consumption so that all the people in the town and other

citizens of this province know of the potential problems in this kind of a situation? Why the secrecy in this matter?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** There isn't any real secrecy in that I think the reports have been made public; all of the tests that have been done very recently have shown marked improvement except, I think, in one or two specific areas. We will be discussing this with the people from the Port Hope area very shortly, and I really would like to consult with them about their feelings about whether all of the report should be made public or not.

**Mr. Moffatt:** Supplementary: I would like to ask the minister, since she said in her original response, "if the information is forthcoming from the Atomic Energy Control Board," is there some reason to suspect the Atomic Energy Control Board would not give information to the Ontario Ministry of Health?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** No, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry if I misled the House with that remark. There is no such doubt.

#### DESIGN FOR ONTARIO LAND-USE PLAN

**Mr. MacDonald:** A question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Is the firm of Hedlin Menzies on an ongoing contract for consulting work with the ministry or with the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development? If not, what payment was made to that firm for the production of the draft statement of policy on agricultural land use?

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, Mr. Roger Schwass was retained by my ministry to do some work about three weeks ago. He's a man with a great agricultural background, in case the hon. member didn't know that.

**Mr. Lewis:** It was a last-minute appointment.

**Hon. W. Newman:** He worked on "The Challenge of Abundance" as research director for 2½ years. He's had 20 years' experience in the agricultural field. He's done work on the Lambton-Sarnia—

**Mr. Lewis:** Three weeks before the final report.

Interjections.

**Mr. MacDonald:** And he is willing to produce the kind of political document you want.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. W. Newman:** He knows more about agriculture than the hon. member will ever know, I tell him that right now.

**Mr. Lewis:** Certainly more than I'll ever know.

**Hon. W. Newman:** As far as doing ongoing work is concerned, yes, he has done work for other ministries, and I know he has for this ministry in the past too.

**Mr. Good:** When in doubt, shout.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. W. Newman:** But as far as I'm concerned, since I became minister, this is the first time we had the opportunity and pleasure of having him do some work for us, a little bit of work for us.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. W. Newman:** His total cost will be somewhere around \$4,000.

Interjections.

**Mr. Lewis:** For that statement?

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Lewis:** That's \$200 a page.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The member for Rainy River with a supplementary.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Just a minute, please. We've had a very good question period up to now, I think everyone will agree, so let's keep it that way.

Interjections.

**Mr. Reid:** Do you think I should sit down, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Yakabuski:** Don't blow up.

**Mr. Mancini:** The Minister of Agriculture and Food spoiled it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We are wasting valuable time by these interjections. The hon. member for York South may have a supplementary.

**Mr. MacDonald:** I would agree that Roger Schwass may know more than I do, and cer-

tainly than the minister, on agriculture. However, will the minister answer my question?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** About you there is no doubt.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Right, equally no doubt. My question is, was that \$4,000, paid three weeks prior to the production of the statement on agricultural land use, for that statement alone?

**Hon. W. Newman:** He hasn't even been paid yet.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The member for Rainy River, a final supplementary.

**Mr. Reid:** I would like to ask the minister how he justifies, in these days of restraint, paying an outside consultant for a study when he has people in the Resources Development Secretariat—

**Mr. MacDonald:** They wouldn't give the right answer.

**Mr. Reid:** —and TEIGA, and also in his own Ministry of Agriculture and Food? How does he justify an outside contract like that?

**Mr. MacDonald:** He provided the right answer.

**Hon. W. Newman:** I justify it very easily. I have been working with our own staff for some time on the preservation of agricultural land.

Interjections.

**Mr. Cassidy:** You blew it.

**Hon. W. Newman:** No, we had all the facts and figures together on a lot of it.

**Mr. Reid:** Why did the ministry pay somebody \$4,000 then?

**Hon. W. Newman:** Does the member want an answer or doesn't he?

**Mr. Reid:** I am not getting one. If the minister had the facts and figures, why did he hire him?

**Hon. W. Newman:** If the member wants an answer, he should sit there and listen.

Interjections.

**An hon. member:** They don't want to hear the answer.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Will the hon. minister take his seat? We want fewer interjections.



**Mr. Cassidy:** Who is "we"?

**Mr. Reid:** We want more answers.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think I am speaking on behalf of the assembly generally. The hon. minister may complete his answer.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Roger Schwass was brought in some time ago to do some preliminary work for us on this. I'd just like to tell members one thing, that the final copy, which will be dealt with at the appropriate time, was not even seen by Roger Schwass or Hedlin Menzies. It was done by myself and my own staff working late at nights.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I announced that as a final supplementary. The member for Quinte.

**Mr. Lewis:** This one isn't over yet, not yet.

**Hon. W. Newman:** You bet it isn't.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The member for Quinte wishes to ask a question.

**Mr. Lewis:** It was \$4,000; just three weeks before the design plan for Ontario—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

### HOSPITAL CUTBACKS

**Mr. O'Neil:** Could the acting Minister of Health tell the House why officials of the Belleville General Hospital have been unable to get a rationale for cuts ordered by the ministry in their hospital and why they have been unable to receive supporting information on how this decision to cut approximately \$564,000 from their budget was made?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The officials of those hospitals in which cuts have been recommended or requested have been given information by the ministry. They have also been informed that if they have questions about this they may appeal to the ministry for a discussion, and in almost all instances in which there is question about the cutting of hospital beds or the decrease in budget, that kind of discussion is taking place. If the Belleville hospital wants to have this kind of consultation with the Ministry of Health, it is at perfect liberty to request it.

**Mr. O'Neil:** Supplementary: I don't believe that information has been supplied for the Belleville General Hospital; I would ask that if it hasn't it now be conveyed. I would also like to ask were not mathematical cal-

culations made to determine the nature and severity of cuts in the hospital; and is the ministry able to provide this information to members of this Legislature?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The regression analysis was most certainly made available to all of the hospitals involved in this programme.

**Mr. Lewis:** Supplementary: Did the minister know that her regression analysis is in every instance wrong?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I would question that, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Lewis:** Okay.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Very definitely.  
[3:00]

### KIRKLAND LAKE AREA BUILDING FREEZE

**Mr. Bain:** In the absence of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier), I would like to direct a question to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and to the Premier (Mr. Davis).

Is the government aware that a building freeze, administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and in effect since 1962 in the Kirkland Lake area in the townships of Lebel, Pacaud, Otto, Marquis, McElroy, Boston and Marter, is causing the people of these communities a great deal of difficulty? Is it aware that originally when the freeze was put on, people were told it was going to be temporary and that the government would introduce a development plan that would allow for reasonable and rational development in these townships? What and where is that development programme and when can we expect it?

**Hon. Mr. Irvine:** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the actual plan that the member is speaking about, but I will certainly draw the matter to the attention of the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) and the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) who, I believe, would be the people who would be involved in such a plan.

**Mr. Bain:** Supplementary: The plan I referred to was described as a development plan to replace the blanket freeze. I was wondering if the provincial secretary could also inquire within the Ministry of Natural Resources about a promise that was made to set up a committee on which would be local people to investigate what would replace

the freeze. Could the provincial secretary also report on the status of that committee and when it is to be set up?

**Hon. Mr. Irvine:** Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to bring it to the attention of the Minister of Natural Resources and to the other two ministers, as I said before.

## RENTAL CONSTRUCTION

**Mr. Givens:** I would like to ask the Minister of Housing what has been the tempo of construction of rental residential accommodation in the urban areas of Ontario since the imposition of rent controls?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the hon. member any figures on that. As the hon. member I think knows, there have been tender calls put out for proposals to provide rental accommodation. When they terminate we will be able to have some general idea as to what sort of reaction we are getting from the builders as to the possibility of what rental construction will be carried on this year.

**Mr. Givens:** Supplementary: I am not talking about low-rental housing. I am talking about the general market. Is it not a fact that construction of rental accommodation has come to a virtual standstill in this province?

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Mr. Speaker, I don't believe I can properly answer that, to say it has come to a virtual standstill. I have had indications that the building industry is backing away—yes, indeed—from the construction of rental accommodation. But I would like to have an opportunity to attempt to get the correct figures to present to the hon. member.

**Mr. Lewis:** They were not building any units before the legislation.

**Mr. Speaker:** The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Motions.

**Hon. Mr. Welch** moved that commencing Wednesday, April 21, and until further orders the House will not sit in the chamber on Wednesdays.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall this motion carry? Carried.

**Mr. Reid:** Will you amend that to include Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays?

**Mr. Cassidy:** Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a comment on that motion before it carries, before it is considered by—

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion has already been carried.

**An. hon. member:** Sit down.

**Mr. Cassidy:** I was rising to my feet.

**Mr. Speaker:** I didn't hear any objections.

**Mr. Cassidy:** I did and I was rising to my feet.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then I will withdraw the carrying for a moment and I will hear the hon. member.

**Mr. Cassidy:** I don't want to indulge in a long debate, I just want to say that the question of Wednesday sittings of the House is something which has been under study by the select committee of the Legislature studying the fourth and fifth reports of the Camp commission. For those members of all parties who are from the vicinity of Toronto, they are probably aware from discussions with their own caucuses of the disparities, one might say, between out-of-town members who cannot return to their ridings on Wednesdays, and who therefore find it difficult to spend an idle Wednesday here in Toronto—not completely idle—

**Mr. Reid:** You should try researching your speeches.

**Mr. Cassidy:** —as opposed to those members within commuting distance of Toronto who return to the ridings in order to do some constituency work. There are real difficulties, which I know we will discuss later on when the select committee's report comes forward, which are caused by that difference in condition between the out-of-town members and those closer to town.

It is my understanding from what members of cabinet have said that in fact the cabinet does most of its business on Wednesday mornings, and therefore the Wednesday sittings are not required to be vacated because of the cabinet's own work. I just don't think the motion should pass without that being remarked, although the question is going to come up later in time. I don't think it should be accepted that all members of the House are happy with the fact that for the past three years, at the whim of the cabinet, we have not been sitting on Wednesdays.

**Mr. Deans:** Just a comment on this matter. I agreed with the House leader of the gov-



ernment that this motion would be put, and that it should say "until further notice." I assume now, as I did then, that that means at some future date we will discuss it again. We were waiting for the report of the committee in order to do that. Though my colleagues and many other people may feel some change should be made, it can't be made until we fully understand the implications of the committee's deliberations.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** That's the best lecture you've given.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Speaker:** Introduction of bills.

### ELECTION FINANCES REFORM AMENDMENT ACT

**Mr. Johnson** moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Election Finances Reform Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

**Mr. Johnson:** Mr. Speaker, this bill would permit weekly newspapers that go to press on Tuesday, which constitute a majority, to accept election advertisements. The wording of the present section creates many unfortunate difficulties.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

### ARBITRATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry** moved second reading of Bill 1, An Act to amend the Arbitrations Act.

**Mr. Renwick:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak briefly on Bill 1, An Act to amend the Arbitrations Act. It was introduced by the hon. minister on the opening of the assembly as a bill with a minor amendment. I simply want to say to the minister that the amendment would in fact contradict an amendment which was made to the bill at a recent time.

In 1973, schedule B to the bill was replaced by a provision providing that the Lieutenant Governor in Council could establish maximum and minimum fees which could be charged under the provisions of the Arbitrations Act. Consistent with that, the bill, as it was then drafted, provided for a maximum fee. It provided, of course, that the parties to a submission could agree otherwise, but it put an upper limit on the maximum amount which an arbitrator could charge for his services.

I simply want to say to the minister that the provision which was amended in 1973 states quite categorically that the Lieutenant Governor in Council can make regulations prescribing the maximum and minimum fees chargeable by arbitrators under the Act. It seems to me to be totally and quite inconsistent. It'll provide, by this amendment, that the parties to a submission to an arbitration could agree to provide higher fees than are permitted under the statute by regulation.

I would draw to the attention of the minister that the fees are by no means negligible. For each day's sitting, consisting of at least six hours, there is a minimum fee of not less than \$150 and a maximum fee of \$250. If, for any reason, a sitting takes place but there's no actual reference proceeded with but it's simply for the purposes of a postponement, the minimum fee is \$40 and the maximum fee is \$80. Then, for additional hours that are spent, there is a minimum of \$20 and a maximum of \$30.

I'm simply saying to the minister that he cannot now so amend the bill, by this amendment, to provide that the parties to a submission can agree to a higher fee than is fixed in accordance with the statute by the Lieutenant Governor in Council as the maximum as well as the minimum that may be chargeable under the Act. For that reason, simply because the bill is inaccurate, we would have grave reservations about supporting it.

**Mr. Breithaupt:** The comments made by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) are, I think, quite complete. I would appreciate hearing from the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) as to the reasoning behind this circumstance which apparently would now allow the rates which had otherwise been agreed upon to be changed after the Lieutenant Governor in Council may have fixed certain figures.

While this bill was used as the traditional minor situation upon which to allow the procedure of the House to develop after the bringing in of the Speech from the Throne, it would appear that a somewhat more important principle flows out of this bill than is normally the case with the usual Bill 1 which we've seen in the various legislative sessions. If the Attorney General could give some explanation as to this matter it might complete our remarks on this; otherwise, of course, it could go to committee for further detail back and forth.

**Mr. Lawlor:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps to recapitulate what my colleague has said in this regard—in any event, to straighten out the matter as I understand it so we'll get clarity in the wording. By chapter 2, section 2, in

1973, an amendment was made to section 18 of the Arbitrations Act. Taking that particular amendment, which knocked out the words "that provided by schedule B" in the seventh and eighth lines and substituted "the maximum prescribed therefor," the section, with the new amendment being proposed here today, would read as follows:

The parties to a submission may agree by writings signed by them or by making such agreement a part of the submission to pay to the arbitrator or to the arbitrators, if more than one, such fees for such day's attendance or such gross sum for taking upon themselves the burden of the reference and making the award, as the parties see fit. And no arbitrator shall take or receive from either party to a submission any greater fee than that agreed upon or, in default of agreement, the maximums prescribed therefor and the receipt of any greater fee may be regarded as a misconduct justifying the setting aside of the award.

My question comes down to the situation—without sending it into committee I don't think—if the minister removes the reference to schedule B but nevertheless retains the wording of "the maximum prescribed therefor," where is the prescription set out? What reference is made within the statute as to where this may be found?

[3:15]

**Hon. Mr. McMurtry:** Mr. Speaker, the amendment which has been proposed in Bill 1 is, in my view, simply to rectify an omission that occurred in 1970 with respect to the revision of the statutes. My information, in looking into the history of this, is that this was simply a printer's error; in other words, it is to conform with the way the section read in 1960.

It's true that obviously there are fees prescribed in the regulations but in certain instances—these may very well be relatively few instances—the parties to a dispute simply cannot persuade or obtain the services of an arbitrator in a matter which is of a highly complex nature.

As a matter of fact, it would appear that section 22 of the bill as amended in 1973 confirms by implication that the omission was not intentional. For example, it provides that the taxing officer shall not tax fees higher than is prescribed by the regulations and then come the words, "except as provided in section 18." It is my view that this is a reference to the omitted words. Furthermore, it's quite obvious that for very valid reasons the Act provides a penalty or indicates that receipt of any greater fee may be regarded

as misconduct justifying the setting aside of the award.

It's my information that many parties to disputes—I can't give particulars—have regarded the 1970 revision as an omission and certainly have been conducting themselves according to the principle that was laid down in the 1960 bill; namely, that the parties to the dispute could agree to a larger fee than that prescribed. As I've already said, in certain arbitrations where a great deal of expertise is required, in this day and age one simply cannot get an arbitrator for the maximum fee of \$250, as difficult as that might appear to many people.

We're also concerned that this amendment should be made retroactive to protect past awards as there is a possibility that there may very well have been a technical contravention of section 18. When one looks at the history of the legislation and how the section read in 1960. I'm firmly of the view and totally satisfied that what we are attempting to do is simply to rectify what was, in effect, a printer's omission.

With great respect I don't see any contradiction to the amendment as provided in 1973. I don't see that it is inconsistent, namely, that although the fees are those as prescribed by regulation, the parties can, in certain circumstances in special cases, agree to a higher fee. Not to amend the legislation, in my view, might make it very difficult for parties to complex disputes to obtain the type of arbitration which is not only in the best interests of the parties but, of course, in the best interest of the public who are often affected by these disputes.

I don't think there is really anything further I could say to assist my hon. friends other than what I've just outlined.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall this bill be ordered for third reading?

**Mr. Renwick:** To committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is so ordered? We will turn it over to the committee of the whole House?

Agreed.

## REPRESENTATION AMENDMENT ACT

**Hon. Mr. Welch** moved second reading of Bill 3, An Act to amend the Representation Act, 1975.



**Mr. Young:** Mr. Speaker, as far as we are concerned we feel that this is a good move. I think both members concerned are willing that this should be done and are anxious that these name changes take place, and we are quite willing to pass it as far as this reading is concerned and have it referred directly to third reading.

**Mr. Breithaupt:** Mr. Speaker, it has been a traditional ability of members of the House to involve themselves if the name of the riding they represent may be changed from time to time because of particular local circumstances. It is a courtesy which is afforded to the members, and certainly if it is the decision of the members and of the areas they represent that they wish to have the names of these two ridings changed to make them more acceptable and more factual in the areas which they represent, then we certainly agree with it and would acknowledge that this bill can immediately go to third reading.

**Mr. Swart:** Mr. Speaker, as the member representing one of the ridings I rise to support this bill. The change will give recognition to the facts as they exist, that the riding of Welland is now comprised totally and solely of the cities of Thorold and Welland. It recognizes that Thorold has been, in fact, elevated to a city as of last July 1, and therefore has a new prestige and a new prominence in the Niagara Peninsula. I just point out, too, that of course Thorold plays a key part in the Niagara Peninsula. For instance, St. Catharines and Brock riding get many of their facilities from our area, including their water system and they take our sewage away from us. So I have to say that we look down from Thorold a little bit on St. Catharines and I think we should recognize, in our riding name, being a bit above that municipality.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this bill, and I want to say that I do appreciate the efforts on behalf of my own government and all the members in the House to let this legislation come forward at this time. As you know, about half of my riding is in the regional municipality of Durham, half of my riding is in the regional municipality of York, and, of course, when it was named Durham North the residents in the York part of the region felt that they had been neglected by not having it called Durham-York and I rise to support this bill to rename the riding Durham-York.

**Mr. Renwick:** Mr. Speaker, I have only one comment. I want to know whether the

minister understands that the name Gwillimbury was the maiden name of Lady Simcoe?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is there any further discussion on second reading of the bill?

The motion is for second reading of Bill 3.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall this bill be ordered for third reading

Agreed.

### THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 3, An Act to amend the Representation Act, 1975.

### PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Welch, in the absence of Hon. Mr. Snow, moved second reading of Bill 4, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

**Mr. Renwick:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, is it wise to proceed with a bill that has been the subject of controversy—

**Hon. Mr. Welch:** He is coming.

**Mr. Renwick:** Oh, he is coming? Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** I understand the minister is coming immediately.

**Mr. Sargent:** Come on, Jim, You are holding up progress.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the minister have any statement on second reading or shall we proceed with the debate?

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** I would just like to say, before we start the debate on Bill 4, that it is my proposal that after second reading this bill be referred to the appropriate standing committee of the House so that we could have the opportunity of having different segments of the industry which are interested, and the public as well, make their points known on this bill.

**Mr. Philip:** Mr. Speaker, the minister's statement that it will be referred to committee is a welcome statement and we feel that such an action is appropriate. The amendments in

1973 to the Public Commercial Vehicles Act have aroused a certain amount of concern among those in the business and it is only right that the people be given an opportunity to express these concerns and have these points of view heard and examined.

We support the principle of the regulation of leasing. The member for Yorkview (Mr. Young) has brought the need for regulation to the attention of this government on a number of occasions and for a number of years. Those legitimate business operators in the business, I am sure, have also brought their concerns about the need for some form of regulation to the attention of the minister.

It is regrettable that the government has waited so long to bring about some form of regulation. We, on the other hand, have a number of anxieties about the bill. It appears to tar all the leasing truckers with the same brush. The bill appears to us to be somewhat simplistic and we look forward to the deliberations. Thank you.

**Mr. Reid:** Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat surprised at the reaction of my colleague who just spoke on behalf of the NDP. I gather from his remarks that, in effect, they are supporting the government on this bill and will vote in favour of the bill in second reading.

**Mr. Philip:** That is not what I said.

**Mr. Reid:** I find that somewhat surprising but I guess they have to do what they think is best. This party is going to move an amendment; in effect, I believe it is what we generally refer to in the House as a hoist motion. Members will find it on the notice paper and I would like to read it into the record. Our reasoned amendment reads:

That Bill 4, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act, be not now read a second time but be read a second time two months hence and that during the interval the subject matter of the bill be considered by the standing committee on resources development and that the committee report by May 31, 1976.

We don't believe in the principle of this bill as stated and outlined in Bill 4.

The effect of the bill obviously will be to put a number of people in the leasing business and the trucking industry in the Province of Ontario out of business. The effect of our amendment will give everyone involved in the trucking business in the Province of Ontario time to prepare briefs and submissions to the committee which will be looking into the matter.

My friend from the NDP indicated that he thought those people operating under PCV licences were legitimate operators. I assume he meant by that that those who didn't have PCV licences were illegitimate. This party does not hold with that stand and I find the NDP twisting and turning on this particular issue somewhat strange to say the least. Obviously they're not supporting these small independent people in the province who are trying to make a living.

**Mr. Wildman:** That's not what he said.

**Mr. Reid:** We feel that the OTA has indicated that there are up to 15,000 people in the leasing business in the Province of Ontario. The minister has indicated that there are a fair number; we don't know exactly how many. The effect of this bill, if passed through second and third reading by this House in the next little while, would be to put very many of these people out of business.

The bill provides, as members know, in section 3(a) that, in effect, a leased truck could only go one way and would have to return empty in many cases. In other words, if one leases a truck in Toronto for a trip to Windsor, the truck would have to be returned empty from Windsor to Toronto.

[3:30]

It's obvious in the transportation business that one cannot operate efficiently or economically that way and the effect of the legislation is to put these people out of business. We can't agree with that.

The Liberal Party represents the individual in this Province of Ontario and we can't see that happen to small entrepreneurs who are trying to make a living. The minister has indicated that there are perhaps some illegalities in the present situation. If so, this bill is not going to do anything really but put a lot of hard-working people out of business.

Perhaps if there are amendments to be made they should be made under section 2 of the Act, dealing with leases, if there is something there which doesn't meet with the minister's approval. To bring in a bill which, in effect, says one can continue in business as long as one continues to drive standing on one's head and with one's hands tied behind one, does not make sense to this party.

The OTA has indicated that it is losing a great deal of business to the independent truckers in the province but I think it's a case which hasn't really been proved. If there are problems, and we agree there are problems



with the Public Commercial Vehicles Act as now constituted, this kind of ad hoc-ery or patching up is really not going to solve the fundamental problems involved. It is not going to solve the situation and we can't support the bill. We feel it's bad legislation. I would be interested to hear the remarks of the member for Riverdale, who is very good on this sort of thing, and hear what he has to say as to the efficacy of this particular bill.

What our amendment will do is to give people time. That's what we want to do primarily—to buy time for these people who are directly affected so that they can at least continue to operate and to give their legal staffs or themselves time to prepare submissions and briefs to the board.

I think it's high time that the whole Act, the Public Commercial Vehicles Act, was looked at in total. A lot of the independent truckers are in business and have operated under the Act in the way they have because they could neither afford the time nor the money nor the expensive lawyers to go before the Highway Transport Board and prove public convenience and necessity. So many of them have gone the other route into the leasing line because they couldn't afford it or were turned down for one of many reasons by the Highway Transport Board. I don't think anyone who knows anything about the trucking industry wouldn't agree that when somebody applies for a PCV licence all the others in the industry are there to oppose anybody else getting into the business.

Their rates, which are filed under the Act, are somewhat similar and one wonders where the element of competition is. The OTA and those people who operate under the PCV Act do have a point in that they are much more regulated than the people under lease. All the people whom I have talked to who operate leased trucks are quite willing to accept any regulations which are reasonable from the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

Surely, to put them all out of business—or 95 per cent of them—to put out people who have operated legitimate businesses for a number of years—by one piece of legislation to put them out of business overnight—is just not fair. I would think it's not even anything approaching natural justice.

Again, we admit there are problems. This bill is not going to solve them. We would ask the NDP to join with us in supporting our notice of motion which we think will go some way in giving people time to make their submissions, both the people who operate under

the PCV licences and those who operate under lease. We're not against the OTA or the organized truckers—they have a valid point of view—but we do not feel that this bill is going to solve any of the problems related to the present Act and we would ask the minister to reconsider. We would hope the bill would go to committee without passing second reading in the House and that the committee can redraft the bill so that it will be fair and equitable to all.

**Mr. Young:** The minister will be answering later on I guess. I am rather interested in the speaker who has just brought his bit of wisdom to us, because it is not very many weeks ago that we had the dump truck industry facing a problem. At that time we united in order to bring the dump truck industry under regulation. To bring them, as a matter of fact—

**Mr. Reid:** But you aren't putting anybody out of business, which is what this bill does.

**Mr. Young:** We brought them under a regulation which had existed before 1966—

**Mr. Reid:** It will be debated.

**Mr. Young:** —and we all voted that they should apply for entry into the business. In other words, we limited the number of dump truck owners who could come into the dump truck industry.

We are now facing a problem of whether or not we are going to have the same kind of philosophy applied in continuity to the whole transport industry.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** You are putting guys out of business.

**Mr. Young:** We already have the regulations for the transport industry.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** That's not correct.

**Mr. Reid:** That's not right.

**Mr. Mancini:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member rises on a point of order.

**Mr. Mancini:** I would ask you to ask the members of this House, since this is such an important piece of legislation and since it concerns so many jobs for so many people, to try to keep their remarks on the bill please.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Yorkview was doing a little historical background pertaining to the second reading and the

principle of the bill. Would the hon. member for Yorkview continue and keep his remarks to that?

**Mr. Young:** I might quote from the letter, which I think all of us received, signed by Cecil Green, chairman, committee on policy, the Organization of Independent Truckers. He says: "It will be supported by every person who still believes in free enterprise and unrestricted competition."

I think nobody, literally nobody, in this House believes in unrestricted competition and complete free enterprise. We give these phrases a lot of lip service, but years ago I think civilization came to the place where they realized that unfettered free enterprise, unfettered competition, only resulted in chaos, and so in industry after industry after industry and profession after profession, through the whole facet on our civilization, we have brought in regulation.

I don't need, here today, to go over the industries that we have regulated in this way; the doctors, the lawyers, you name it. In industry after industry, we have found that unfettered free enterprise and unbridled competition just did not pay, and as a civilization, to bring order out of chaos, we have had to bring in regulation.

This happened with the trucking industry years and years ago—a couple of generations ago as a matter of fact—and gradually out of the chaos that industry found itself in, the PCV Act resulted. So those who wanted to get into the industry had to submit to certain rules and regulations. We wanted to make sure that we had a living for those who were in it and we had to regulate as far as distance is concerned, and we had trade unions who organized the drivers and other employees, and we had certain rules and regulations about safety of trucks, about loading and overloading, and all these things came under regulations.

I think, most of the people in the transport industry accepted the necessity of the thing, including the dump truck industry at that time. So class F licences were issued, but then in the mid 1960s the dump truck operators, for some reason or other, wanted to get out from under and this Legislature did agree that the dump truck operators should be exempt from the regulation. We know the chaos that resulted there. Finally, after all kinds of disruption and demonstrations, a commission was appointed. Mr. Rapoport made his report and at least some modicum of regulation was reintroduced into the dump truck industry, and we have that

now. It is being modified a bit, as the minister announced the other day, but the fact is that we had to bring back regulations into that industry.

As far as the transport industry is concerned, I might indicate that there are I suppose four modes by which goods are transported. First of all, many companies own their own fleets of transports—Eaton's, Simpsons, these people. As far as I am concerned, they own their own delivery trucks and so on. They operate those, they hire their own drivers, they maintain the fleet, they have mechanics, shops and so on. A great many industries do it that way and they are not concerned as far as the PCV is concerned but, of course, the Teamsters and other unions do organize their drivers and their workers in certain respects.

Then we have the leasing firms, firms which own equipment. They own the rigs and they will hire out those rigs to certain people and certain industries who want to transport their own goods in the same way. In other words, the business decides that it doesn't want to maintain the mechanics, the machine shop and all this, so it goes out and hires the rigs from the company which owns them and which maintains them and it pays them a fee for that kind of service.

In addition to that, we have the whole transport industry with which we are concerned here today, the industry which owns rigs, sometimes single individuals and sometimes fleets. That industry has over the years transported goods from one place to another across this country and particularly across this Province of Ontario. That's where our concern is right now. Those industries, those single-driver industries or multi-rig industries, come under the PCV Act.

They have to establish a need; they have to establish that by entering this industry they are not going to create havoc in the industry. They have to buy their licences. They have to abide by the regulations as to where they can transport, whether it is from Toronto to Montreal, Toronto to Hamilton or Windsor or wherever it may be, clear across the province. It is wide open but within certain limits. They have to make sure that the goods are insured, their rigs are insured and their drivers are properly looked after, and all of this kind of thing is there. These are the people who come under the PCV licence.

But in later years there have been people, owners of single rigs and companies, some of which are very large companies, that have sort of operated in the province without the PCV licence. They go to a company that may



want goods transported from here to Windsor and they say: "Because we operate more cheaply, we don't have to come under the PCV Act and our expenses aren't as large, we can give you a better rate." So they give a better rate and they transport the goods for those people. Many business firms do it this way.

**Mr. Reid:** There's a little more to it than that.

**Mr. Young:** Well, this is fundamentally what happens. They are escaping the rules and regulations of the PCV Act. The result is that we are simply saying that there must be regulations if these people are going to operate, if they are needed—and I am willing to grant that since there is such a big demand for this kind of service perhaps the so-called regular trucking industry is not providing all the services that should be there. I don't know, but this is what we can look into when this bill is referred to the standing committee where we can hear representations from all people who are concerned with this whole deal. But the fact is, if we are going to have an industry which is viable, it must be an industry which comes under the regulations, which obeys the law and which from time to time has to be looked at.

[3:45]

Now these people who operate outside the regulations are people who many of us have looked at for a long time; there's been a lot of concern about it. I just want to say that the statement here is hardly correct. That is, these people are not all little guys and the regular transport industry is not all big guys. Out of the 2,000 or so regular transport firms and individuals, we have, according to my figures, something like 827 single owners in that group out of the 2,000. It's not quite half, but very close to it. The average holding is about four rigs per company.

On the other hand, among the pseudo-leasers or whatever you want to term them, you have some very large companies. Some very large American companies have come in and are pounding our roads here in Ontario without the benefit of regulation. They go where they wish; they simply move where they want to go. They are not restricted as far as rates are concerned and many of their rigs are operating without cargo insurance because many of them can't get it. Some of these, of course, have been brought before the courts on many occasions because they are in violation of the law of Ontario.

So it seems to me that if we are going to believe in a society of law we must say that

all the people who are operating in business or as individuals should be brought under the rule of law. That's all we're saying here today.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** The bill doesn't do that, that's the very point.

**Mr. Young:** All right, we have no objection to that happening. And so if these people are willing to get their licence and come—

**Mr. Bullbrook:** It's a dishonest piece of legislation.

**Mr. Young:** —under the law or if, on the other hand, we should amend the legislation so that there's more latitude for this kind of operator—

**Mr. Reid:** That's not what the bill does.

**Mr. Young:** —then that's the kind of thing—

**Mr. Bullbrook:** The principle of the bill doesn't say that.

**Mr. Young:** All right. This is the fundamental thing which we are looking toward. I think all of us have to recognize there is something wrong here and that the operators of trucks pounding the roads in this way are operating outside the present regulations and the present legislation.

That's why we're willing to support this legislation. We'd like to see it come to the standing committee so that everybody can make his representation, then we'd come back to the House and perhaps there will be amendments at that time which should be considered and considered seriously.

**Mr. Cunningham:** I'd like to speak briefly in favour of our reasoned amendment to hoist this legislation.

To say as the member of Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) did just recently, that this legislation was somewhat simplistic is really an understatement from my point of view. Clearly, to me what it does is legitimize what I perceive to be some direction by some senior civil servants who feel that this is in fact an illegal activity. I would ask if they could justify this by demonstrating to me whether all these people who are going to be affected—in fact put out of business—have in fact been placed before the courts at any time.

What I see this legislation doing in essence is putting a large number of small independent truckers out of business and very quickly—overnight in fact—into bankruptcy. The ramifications of this, at least from my point of view, I'd like to share with the members of the Legislature, through you, Mr. Speaker.

I think, first of all, thousands of gallons of fuel are going to be wasted because people are going to have to return these large trucks from their place of business empty. To run any kind of business that way, especially when we are suffering fuel shortages, to me is ludicrous.

**Mr. Bain:** Footnote your sources.

**Mr. Cunningham:** I would, as well, like to point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that the higher transportation costs for the people of Ontario would be inflationary. The first people to scream whenever the Consumer Price Index increases are my friends in the NDP. I would ask them at this time what effect they think this is going to have on the cost of goods if, in fact, people are going to have to transport their goods and be subject—the manufacturers of Ontario at least—to the mercy of the Ontario Trucking Association, which is, they are quite right, uniform and non-competitive.

The service aspect is another point I would raise in favour of not putting the legitimate—I repeat, legitimate—leasing operations out of business. Many of these people operate in very close union with various manufacturers throughout Ontario, and they have a kind of relationship that our Ontario Trucking Association and the established companies which fall under the purview of the PCV Act, do not enjoy and cannot facilitate.

I find this type of legislation to be *ex post facto* in nature; I find it to be arbitrary; I find it to be unfair; and, to tell the truth, I don't find it particularly typical of a party that would espouse the essence and the principle of free enterprise. We are not only going to affect all the people—the families, the people who drive these trucks, the people who hold mortgages on them, many of which I am sure are secured by their houses and personal chattels—but also a number of companies that rely on these companies for lower transportation rates so that in fact they can stay competitive.

Increased fuel costs, increased hydro rates and increased wages in Ontario are slowly putting many companies in this country either out of business or in a non-competitive position as it would relate to the United States or to other companies. I think that to further increase the cost of their business is not only inflationary, but it's going to cause severe dislocation, it's going to put people out of their jobs and I think it's going to be excessively unfair.

Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you a few remarks here put forth in a letter to all of us by Mr. John F. Bulloch,

president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. On April 2, 1976, in a release to us, he strongly urged that the members of the Legislature oppose Bill 4 when it is presented to the Legislature for second reading on Tuesday, April 6. Mr. Bulloch said:

The purpose of this bill, in our judgement, is to put private truck-leasing companies out of business by preventing return-lease arrangements. If this legislation is passed, a small manufacturer in, say, Windsor, leasing a truck for a trip to Toronto, would have to return the truck empty. This would increase the cost of leasing substantially and waste scarce fuel. At present, the truck can be left in Toronto at a depot and a separate lease agreement can be made by the lessor with another small business.

One-way leasing is very adaptable to the needs of small firms, since it provides a degree of speed, flexibility and, more importantly, economy that large trucking firms cannot provide. Bill 4 is an example of big government working closely with big business to the disadvantage of the consumer and the small business community.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business represents 32,000 Canadian owner-managers, 16,000 of whom are located in Ontario.

In addition to the support of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the independent truckers also enjoy the support of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, the Canadian Industrial Traffic League, the lumber companies of our north, more recently the Ontario Lumber Manufacturers Association and obviously—by the participation today of the member for Rainy River (Mr. Reid) and myself as well as, of course, the other members of my party—the Liberal Party in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, through you I would suggest, possibly to the minister, that we might take a more universal approach to what I perceive to be a real problem in Ontario—and I don't think there is anybody in the Legislature who would argue against it—and that is, transportation and the relationship of it to the trucking industry in Ontario. I would say to the minister that possibly the time has come when we should have a select committee, not only to examine the possible ramifications of Bill 4 in terms of putting people out of business in this particular industry, but to examine the entire industry across Ontario.

Maybe there are, as the hon. member pointed out, violations in the area of insur-



ance; and certainly there are some members of the lease-holding operation who clearly aren't operating in good faith and could be termed to be pirates. But again, to use this shotgun effect, in essence to put a number of people out of business overnight like this, is grossly unfair.

The hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook) indicated it was a dishonest piece of legislation. I think I must share his point of view in that I don't think the government is being straightforward with these people. I don't think they have made any attempt, before introducing this legislation, to solicit some meaningful feedback from that community and the community that is affected by it. In essence, I think if the minister wants to put these people out of business, why doesn't he just table a piece of legislation to say "We want you out of business". To fool around in this way and say they can go only one way and regulate it by poundage I think is fallacious and, at the very least, dishonest.

In concluding, I would ask that the members of the Legislature not only in the Liberal Party but all members of the Legislature who favour private enterprise and who would be inclined to support the little man in Ontario who is trying to make an honest buck—certainly I think that for the most part, that would be most of the people who are involved in the independent truckers' association—I would ask the NDP and other members who would look upon this in a favourable, fair and compassionate way to support our reasoned amendment.

**Mr. Drea:** Mr. Speaker, in the words of the last speaker, I want to look at it in a very compassionate way. I want to look at it in terms of the little man. I want to talk in terms of the man who, for 20 or 25 years in this province, has probably had to carry a heavier burden of technological change, economic change and social change on his back than anybody else. That is the line driver for a regular truck company. Let me just add to that; let me talk about some of the unsung people. Let me talk about the men who go down and work on the loading docks at night and load those trucks.

They have been working a long time in this province. They haven't asked anything from anybody. They organized themselves a union. They got themselves the right so that they didn't have to drive all day and all night and on the loading docks they won for themselves the right so that they didn't have to do this or that and get a NSF cheque. I

love these free enterprisers with their independent businessmen, I really do.

I want to talk about those so-called little men and I want to say something about compassion. It's all very well for a Legislature to come in and to take a look at legislation and say, in the light of 1976, to bring some immediate or short-term or even weekend benefits to a certain segment of business, therefore we will cut away the standards, the rights and the conditions that other people have had to work for 25 or 30 years to obtain.

**Mr. McEwen:** And control.

**Mr. Drea:** I very seriously question the concept that this is the legislation which will help the little man. The little man, after all, goes to work at 6 or 7 o'clock in the morning and he doesn't expect anything more than that he will be paid the prescribed hourly rates and that his cheque will be cashed.

**Mr. Cunningham:** He is going to lose his job.

**Mr. Drea:** He also asks one more thing and I don't really think it's very much in terms of our society today. That is that when he leaves work on Friday, he can be reasonably assured that there is a job on Monday. I realize that there are a great number of--

**Mr. Cunningham:** Not with you guys.

**Mr. Reid:** Not if he works in a hospital, he can't have that assurance.

**Mr. Cunningham:** Not if he is a social worker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

**Mr. Drea:** I don't really think it is very much for a man to ask and it may not be much in terms of all the free enterprisers. It may not be very much in terms of all those who have never worked and I don't think it is very much for this Legislature to recognize that there are people who have a very solid requirement for their job. They went to work under certain terms or conditions, they have done those and now it turns out, because of economic or social or technological conditions, that we are about to say, because it benefits one segment of the industry—we stand here and we beat our breasts on behalf of free enterprise and the little man. I will tell members that far too often today, the only reason the little man in free enterprise gets started is because he's trying to undercut the pensions or the con-

ditions or something else that the working man has fought a long time for.

[4:00]

**Mr. Cunningham:** You don't know what you are talking about.

**Mr. Sweeney:** In other words, close the door for anyone else to start.

**Mr. Drea:** I say that very seriously, and maybe they should take a look at it.

**Mr. Cunningham:** You are not even talking to the bill. You are not even speaking about the bill. I'd like to know where you think you have licence to ramble on like this. You are not even speaking to the principle of the bill.

**Mr. Drea:** I am talking to the bill. You raised it with your compassion. You raised it—your compassion, your little man, your independent man, but I am setting the record straight.

**An hon. member:** Don't get mad. Keep your cool.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Drea:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the bill. I think it is high time we try to rationalize many of the innovations that are coming into highway transport. I think it is high time we took a look at the companies that have pioneered transport across this province. It is high time we looked at the people who have paid wages, who have developed road routes, who have developed traffic patterns in this province. I suggest that nobody gets a more friendly reception in this House than somebody who is talking for small business. But I suggest this is the first time that Mr. Bulloch—and I received exactly the same thing as the members did and I looked at it more in sadness than anything else—

**Mr. Cunningham:** Did you read it?

**Mr. Reid:** Did you have somebody read it to you?

**Mr. Drea:** He has been massively misadvised. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, a vote against this bill—

**Mr. Riddell:** That has nothing to do with the bill.

**Mr. Drea:** —is a vote to turn trucking and highway transport, and all the ancillary services that are with it, back to where they were before the war.

**Mr. Cunningham:** That's nonsense.

**Mr. Drea:** I suggest very seriously that members who want to vote against this should think of the little man. It's about time they thought of the little man's pension, the little man's job security, the things the little man has been able to bring home to his family through a combination of his own efforts to organize and the regulation of this industry in the province.

**Mr. Wildman:** Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill although I have some reservations, as had the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip), and I am glad that the bill will be referred to committee so that we can hear the representations of the people involved.

**Mr. Reid:** That is not what you are voting for. Do you understand the parliamentary system?

**Mr. Foulds:** You people should talk about understanding the parliamentary system and process.

**Mr. Reid:** The principle of the bill is not to debate it in committee. The principle of the bill is putting people out of work.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon member from Algoma will continue.

**Mr. Wildman:** Mr. Speaker, the gentlemen beside us here want to put this whole thing off and we are going to face more chaos in the system if we continue to put it off. We will have more and more people coming into the business unregulated.

**Mr. MacDonald:** The Liberals are always in favour of unregulating things.

**Mr. Wildman:** They bring out this red herring of free enterprise and helping the little man—and I agree with the last speaker, what about the little man who has been under the PCV and has been working under this? They are not helping him any when they say let's put it off and let more of those operators come in unregulated.

**Mr. Cunningham:** How does this relate to the bill?

**Mr. Wildman:** I don't know.

**Mr. Nixon:** You are voting for it.

**Mr. Wildman:** I don't know that this is the answer, but to put off any control of these people for four months or two months is not going to solve anything. Why not get it into



committee, hear the representations of everybody and get it solved as quickly as possible?

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Because you can't amend the principle of the bill then.

**Mr. Wildman:** How can we, as they are suggesting, support the principle that we have unfettered competition? That's ridiculous. None of the truckers wants that.

**Mr. Reid:** That's not what the bill says. Have you read the bill?

**Mr. Wildman:** Yes, I have read the bill.

**Mr. Reid:** Did you understand it?

**Mr. Wildman:** This bill will not allow for two-way leases, right?

**Mr. Reid:** And what's the effect of that?

**Mr. Wildman:** These people here want to allow pseudo lessors to come into this business and take business away from legitimate operators who have been operating under regulation for so long, because they don't want to control these kinds of leases. I can't support their reasoned amendment because I think it is just going to continue a chaotic system. I think we should pass this bill and control the entry into the industry, as has been suggested by many speakers previously, both on this side and on that side of the House.

**Mr. Reid:** The reasoned amendment doesn't say that either.

**Mr. Sweeney:** Mr. Speaker, we are opposed to the bill as it stands now because of the basic principle of this bill. We are not sure what the intent of the government was in bringing it forward. In the short time I've been in this Legislature, I have disagreed with bills the government has put forward but at least their intent was clear.

I have to agree with two of my colleagues who have said that this is basically a dishonest bill. The government surely knows that what will happen if this bill goes through is that upwards of 5,000 independent truckers will be put out of business. It can't be any other way.

**Mr. Wildman:** Why don't they apply for PCVs?

**Mr. Sweeney:** In 1973, only three years ago, this Legislature—I have to assume with the support of the entire House—passed another piece of legislation which, in effect, said to these same 5,000 truck owners, "Yes, go out. What you're doing is legitimate.

There is enough room in this province for different ways of serving the people."

Even the member of the NDP earlier stated that there are different needs for the transportation business in this province and that different forms of transportation have arisen to meet those needs. If we believe the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea), we have closed the door forever. We are now fixed forever—in this day of change, surely not—and no new methods can come forward. Everything that is now fixed is going to be fixed forever and we're not supposed to touch it because of the people who are already in it.

**Mr. Wildman:** Let them apply for a PCV.

**Mr. Sweeney:** Surely, we can't do that. What we're saying here in effect—and what I think the government is saying—is that over the last three years the government has realized there are some problems with what's happening here. Okay, we can agree to that but what, in effect, the government is doing is saying that because there are some problems with some lessor-owners, it is going to crucify all of them.

**Mr. Mancini:** That's what you're doing.

**Mr. Sweeney:** That's the same thing as saying that because some people who walk into a bank will rob it, the government is going to convict everyone who walks into a bank—because someone might rob it. That's what we're against. We're against the overriding principle of this bill which will, in effect, destroy small businessmen who are meeting a recognized need.

**Mr. Wildman:** If there's a need for them.

**Mr. Sweeney:** If the government can demonstrate that there are specific problems with the way this is operating now, let us deal with those—but not with this. This isn't dealing with the problem; this is crucifixion. There are other truckers in this province who have difficulties, too.

As my colleague has said, let's look at the industry but don't let's destroy a piece of it. Let's not cut off one of its arms. That's what we're opposed to and that's what the principle of this bill is. That's why we must oppose it in principle. That's why we must bring through a reasoned amendment.

**Mr. Renwick:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak for a few minutes about the bill because it's obviously a difficult one from the comments which have been made on both sides of the House. I don't pretend for a moment to be able to speak with the emotional depth of feeling with which my col-

league, the member for Yorkview (Mr. Young) or, on this particular occasion, the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea), spoke about the problems which are involved in a bill such as this.

I'd take this bill to be the addition to an already complex section of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act of a couple of additional items which, if found to be the case, will invalidate what would otherwise be construed or could be construed as a valid lease of a commercial vehicle for the carriage of goods.

I think the reason we would support the bill—particularly when the minister has indicated, as we wished him to indicate, that it would go to the standing committee on resources development for serious consideration—is that we support the proposition that the business of the common carriage of goods on the highways of Ontario must be subject to regulation and licensing—in the interests of the public, the interests of the drivers and in the interests of the owners of the vehicles.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** That's very meritorious but this bill doesn't do it.

**Mr. Renwick:** If we do not support the principle of the addition of these particular items to the section of the bill which is being amended—it's the addition of two items to a very long list of items—then we are, in substance, saying that we must allow a method by which persons can engage in the common carriage of goods on the highways of Ontario without a licence. It's just that simple.

What we are saying to the minister, and saying very clearly, is we do support the bill. We think it is essential that what has become a very awkward section of the bill, section 3 of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act, has got to have a hard look taken at it to see whether or not there is room for what will be construed as illegal activities to be brought within a legal framework. It would be our hope that somewhere out there in the committee, with the representations and comments which are made, a different method can be devised that will not make illegal what many people probably consider to be, from their own point of view, a legal method of carrying on business. I think that's what we've got to search for and that's what we've got to find.

The problem was placed very simply in a number of cases; and of course the ministry, to uphold the principle of the common carriage of goods in the province, had to do something to deal with the legal cases that were coming before the courts by way of prosecu-

tion under the Public Commercial Vehicles Act. I want to refer briefly to the one which came before the courts in 1972 and which led, the following year, to the amendments we made to sections 2 and 3 of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act to try to deal with the problem.

In retrospect, I think it's fair to say that if we had all known at that time of the difficulties that this was going to occasion, it may well have been that at that time it would have been wise to have had the matter thrashed out and dealt with in a standing committee of the Legislature or in some other proper form so that we could have arrived at a better solution.

In any event, in the case to which I want to refer, *Regina vs Tobias*, it's quite a simple case; it's very clear as to what took place. Mr. Tobias owned a tractor and several trailers. He was picked up one day on the highway in the city of Windsor when he was driving the vehicles described in the charge; that is, a tractor unit and several trailers. He was then charged with operating without a licence under the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

The actual factual situation was not difficult. The vehicles were carrying steel, which had been picked up at Hamilton from the Steel Co. of Canada and was consigned to Namasco, a company doing business in Windsor. Namasco was the owner of the steel listed as consignee on the bills of lading which were produced when the vehicle was stopped. It is clear that a commercial vehicle was being operated. The question is, was the accused the operator?

At that point, I want to make this distinction: It was again stated very early in the history of this particular form of licensing of common carriers, that the interest and purpose of the Act is to regulate the use of a commercial vehicle in the business of transporting, for compensation, goods for the public generally. I think that's a fair statement of the principle of the common carriage of goods.

The Act in no sense was to affect a vehicle used exclusively for the transportation of the goods or materials of the owner of the vehicle. It was very clear that if a person owned his own vehicle and he carried his own goods in it, it was never the intention of the Legislature to license that vehicle. On the other hand, if he was not the owner of the vehicle in which his goods were being transported, it was the intention of the legislature to license the vehicle for the common carriage



of that person's goods as a member of the public generally.

That was the situation which the county court judge, His Honour, Judge Zuber, was faced with in the Tobias case, and he put it very simply. He said:

Now in general terms if the accused, Mr. Tobias, operated as a carrier and carried the goods of Namasco, he would have to be licensed under the Public Commercial Vehicles Act. If, on the other hand, Namasco was simply carrying its own goods, using its own trucks, I think it's equally obvious it did not have to be licensed as a public commercial vehicle.

[4:15]

The defence which Mr. Tobias gave, of course, was to produce an agreement which purported to be a lease of the vehicles to Namasco on a net basis so that, for all practical purposes, while he went through the form of leasing the vehicles, all the substance of the obligations remained on Mr. Tobias. The result was that the court simply said that that was not a valid lease and it was a sham.

In 1973, we tried to deal with it in the Legislature by stating very clearly that, if certain incidents occurred in an arrangement between the owner of goods and the owner of a vehicle, it could not be supported as a valid lease and would be ruled out. We listed a series of them—I think eight altogether—which would invalidate and require a court to hold that it was not a valid arrangement for the leasing of the vehicle to an owner to escape the responsibility of having a public commercial vehicle licence.

It was quite interesting to look back at that debate which took place in June, 1973. With varying degrees of misgivings, the members of all the parties in the House agreed with the passage of the bill, including the member for Rainy River (Mr. Reid). I think the member for at that time Essex-Kent (Mr. Ruston) spoke on the bill. Certainly my colleague, the member for Sudbury (Mr. Germa), spoke at some length on the bill. I made a couple of, as usual, irrelevant and innocuous comments about the bill.

Mr. Nixon: Just like today.

Mr. Renwick: That's quite true.

Mr. Reid: You are consistent anyway.

Mr. Renwick: When I read what I said in 1973, I chose those particular adjectives quite appropriately. They were quite innocuous and quite irrelevant. They seemed to have caught

the attention of the House on that occasion. I am trying to make amends on this particular occasion for my lack of knowledge of the depth of the problem.

If the problem, which had been created by the series of court cases in the legitimate effort of the government to regulate the common carriage trade in the Province of Ontario, had been raised at that time, we might have made a lot of progress because the various items which rule out an arrangement as being a valid lease are now already lengthy and there is nothing to indicate that the arrangements which are covered by these additional items wouldn't also have been ruled out under the existing provisions that are set out in section 3 of the bill.

For reasons which are obvious to the ministry and to us, it appears that these relatively large tractors and trailers were driving their way through the statute and upsetting and disrupting the very sound principle of the regulation by government in the public interest of those engaged in the common carriage of goods.

So we support the bill because we support that principle, but we are very much concerned that the actual details, as presently set out in the existing Public Commercial Vehicles Act in sections 2 and 3, to which this present bill simply adds one or two additional items and an additional section, require very serious and careful consideration to see if there isn't some other way in which it would be possible to bring within the ambit of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act a number of persons who likely consider that their operation is legitimate and that they are just subject to unnecessary harassment by the Ontario Provincial Police to enforce the provisions of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

The amendments which we passed in 1973, while they touched upon some of the problem, did not really come to grips with it, and I do hope that at this particular time, when the bill goes to the committee, we will come to grips with it. I want perhaps to labour it slightly by pointing out, so that the record will at least show it, the kind of difficult problem that we have got ourselves into in trying to itemize at great length the kind of arrangements which are not to be considered valid arrangements.

Section 3 of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act, as presently worded, in substance says that, subject to subsection 2:

Where a commercial vehicle is used for the transportation on a highway of goods



that are owned by a person other than the owner or lessee of the vehicle and are being transported pursuant to any arrangement or agreement between the owner or lessee of the vehicle and such other person under which the owner or lessee directly or indirectly receives compensation or consideration of any kind for the use of the vehicle, the goods shall be deemed to be transported in the vehicle by the owner or lessee of the vehicle unless such arrangement or agreement constitutes a valid lease of his vehicle to such other person by the owner or lessee of the vehicle.

In subsection 2, we went on to list a series of items which, if they are contained in a particular agreement, shall deem that agreement not to be a valid lease. We provide that it must be in writing, that it must have exclusive possession, it must provide for the payment directly of the driver of the vehicle, and a number of these other items, which makes it for practical purposes a legal conundrum to decide in any particular instance whether an agreement made between the owner of a vehicle for the lease of that vehicle to a person who wants to use that vehicle for the carriage of goods is or is not the kind of an agreement which would be upheld as a valid lease and, therefore, not require the provision of a public commercial vehicle licence, or, on the other hand, that it is not a valid lease. It is our wish in this party—while continuing as we always will to support the principle of regulation of the common carriage of goods trade on the highways, through the device and mechanism of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act and the correlative federal statute under which joint jurisdiction is exercised by the Ontario Highway Transport Board—to see whether or not we can't get away from this extremely legalistic way of dealing with this problem and yet, at the same time, preserve the inherent and essential ingredients of the common carrier principle of such common carriage trade being subject to provincial regulation.

Therefore, we in this party see no need to support the recent amendment put forward by the Liberal Party. We will not support that. We rest assured that when the bill does go out to the standing committee we will have an opportunity to come up with a much more adequate, reasonable, sensible and satisfactory solution than that which is presently incorporated in the legislation, regardless of the additional items which are being added by this particular bill.

**Mr. Nixon:** The member for Riverdale is anything but ill-informed or irrelevant. As

usual, his comments have added a good deal to the understanding on all sides of what's been said. I don't agree with his conclusion, and I am sure, under other circumstances, he could convince himself as readily that in the circumstances of this bill it is essential that before approving it in principle we have a much more thorough examination of the alternatives available to us. We are all aware that whenever the power of this Legislature, the administration of government, is used to regulate commerce or business, then there are those who are meeting all of the requirements, playing by all the rules, obeying all of the regulations, each one of which costs time and money, and who are reasonably well satisfied. We might say they are the ones who are in. Whatever the business or the commerce, if it is lucrative and if there's a profit in it, if it is a good way of life and if it is possible to make money at it, there will be those who want in. It doesn't matter whether it's the highway trucking business, the common carriers, the licensing of premises that sell alcoholic beverages, the right to be a milk producer or a tobacco grower, or whatever it is, there are those who are in and who have paid the price, who have applied for the licences and who abide by the rules, and those who either want in or want to take advantage of loopholes in the regulation.

Because of the statutes which we have passed and amended year by year—which have been described in some detail, particularly the more recent and applicable amendments, by the member for Riverdale—there has grown up a leasing business and it's described by those on the “in”—that is, those people who are using all of the applicable regulations for an orderly trucking business—as pirates, among other things. Maybe they are, in the particular viewpoint of those directly affected, but as far as I know they have not broken laws or, in fact, they could have been regulated by the laws which we already have.

Under the provisions for leasing there has sprung up a business; and however we regard it, it's got to be considered a legal business, otherwise there would have been some procedure to regulate it or keep it down for the benefit of an orderly trucking business. According to my colleague, there are about 5,000 people involved in this business. Whether they're little men or not may be of importance, but certainly the passage of this bill, according to those people—and they're the ones who are deeply concerned about it—will put them out of business.



When we are discussing this—and we have discussed it among ourselves of course—we looked at the point that this is not an extensive amendment to the legislation. There is really only one significant part to it; that is, if you have a leasing contract, the truck must be leased to the return point from which the truck began. In other words, you've got to go back empty. The minister shakes his head, and I know what he is referring to, but it simply says in the explanatory notes that the lessee does not have to return the vehicle to the place where he receives it from the lessor as an exclusion. Now he's indicating that there is some further information that would be available, but on reading the bill it appears that if a truck is leased then the carriage will take place to the distant point with the load on it, and in most cases there will not be a load from the same company to return in the same truck.

This, of course, is a matter, that can be cleared up, but from the information available to us from the independent truckers and others it is very clearly a way either to increase the costs of that carriage or perhaps—and this is what I expect—to force a large number of those people out of this competitive business. Many people feel they should come directly under the PCV requirements—and that may be so. But, in my opinion, for the bill to receive approval in principle—in fact, the principle as I view it is simply to put these independent truckers in their place, which is out of business; that's really all it is. For that to get approval in principle and then to go to committee, well, I don't know what we're supposed to do. Sure, we can hear submissions from all sides, but if in fact we were to decide not to report the bill, it would mean that the principle of the bill had been negated and this House would have already approved the principle. Maybe we would think they could drive halfway back or three-quarters of the way, but under those circumstances I don't see that additional clauses to amend the principle, which is a very simple one here as I understand it, would be forthcoming.

In a House composed as this one is, surely it is possible to make use of the rules as the hon. member for Rainy River (Mr. Reid) has attempted. It appears that it will not be successful, Mr. Speaker, but I simply bring it to your attention that while we in this party understand the development of the PCV regulations and we believe in regulated highway commerce, we think that this is essential for an orderly trucking business. We have heard all the arguments from individual truckers; we've heard the debates in this House; and we've heard from the Ontario Trucking Asso-

ciation, the very able people representing that group, on many occasions.

We know how important it is to have a regulated trucking business, and it is possible through regulation to build at least some competition in it. We have observed with care the findings of the Ontario Highway Transport Board, and certainly there have been very few valid criticisms of what they have done. But we in this Legislature are the ones who, through our enactments, have opened up the trucking business, at least to some extent, to the legal leasing business as it has been construed.

For the minister to bring in this bill, and with the provisions in subsection 3(a), according to those people directly affected, it is going to have a tremendously bad influence on their business. Maybe they're exaggerating when they say they're all going to be forced out of business, but certainly that is the position they have taken. We in this party feel that is a remedy for a situation that we cannot and should not support. We do, however, believe in a regulated trucking business; and we believe it is possible to come up with a statute, if not a regulation, which will meet the requirements for all people concerned. We believe this can be done before the bill is approved in principle because we suspect this remedy is not the best nor the only one. We don't believe we can support it in principle and that's why we moved that the bill be not read a second time but be read a second time before this House rises for the summer recess sometime in June.

[4:30]

We say that in the intermediate time the whole matter should be put before a committee of this House so those people directly affected can appear before that committee and express their objections in the presence of the other side. That's the only way, surely, to get at the truth. We can retain as much expertise as we wish; we can even hear the experts who sit under the gallery and wonder sometimes at the efficacy of the arguments put before them here. We can even hear their views which, I think, would be useful.

Surely, this could be done before we approve this little wee section, this 3(a) section, in principle, because according to the people who have come to us it is a very serious principle indeed. It is one way to correct what the government may feel was a mistake made back in 1973 but we are not prepared to be a party to it. We believe that, on the face of it at least, it is unfair and to approve

it in principle and expect it all to be repaired in committee is a very naive approach to the democratic process indeed.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** It can't be done.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great interest to all the points made by the hon. members. I think we all realize from the discussion that there are some problems in the trucking industry and I assure members that since I became responsible for this ministry, no area of responsibility which is mine has received as much attention and time as the trucking industry.

The hon. member for Rainy River has stated that I am trying to put all the lessors of trucks out of business. I emphatically say that this is absolutely wrong.

**Mr. Reid:** I didn't say all.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** This is not my intention at all. I feel the truck lessors are playing a very important role in their way of supplying truck transportation to the industries and the public of Ontario but I do feel that we have to define further the role of the trucking company in the business of for hire trucking.

There is no need, as has been stated—I know in principle this will happen—for leased trucks to be returning empty. I think someone quoted to me—and I won't vouch for the figure—that 40 per cent of the licensed carriers return empty in many cases—I guess in all cases—because there are no appropriate loads for them on their return trip.

**Mr. Nixon:** That is a different thing. We don't want government restriction.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** The Liberals seem to think it's all right for the licensed carrier to return empty but not the lessee.

**Mr. Reid:** What about LTL loads and all the rest of it? It all balances out.

**Mr. Bullbrook:** Don't you realize that is why their rates are so high?

**Mr. Good:** It is time you changed your policy to reverse it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Everyone has had an opportunity to participate in the debate. The hon. minister has the floor.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** I listened very intently to their discussions and I didn't interrupt them once.

I assure members that the committee will have ample time. It is my understanding that the committee hasn't any other items before

it at this time. I would hope that the resources committee, if that is the appropriate committee for this bill to go to, would take ample time to hear the views of the different associations.

I have met with the Canadian Industrial Traffic League, with the Ontario Manufacturers Association, and with the independent truckers, with the OTA, and I know they all have a viewpoint to put forward. My officials and I feel this will assist greatly in defining a solid black line dividing for-hire trucking from leasing. I want to bring about more order and more stability in the trucking industry, both for the lessors and for the licensed carriers. To do that we have to have a very clearly defined and distinguishable separation between leasing and for-hire trucking.

I don't think there is any doubt as to the area between private trucking which has been so ably explained by the member for Yorkview (Mr. Young) during his contribution to the debate. That is the purpose of this amendment. It may be that during deliberation in the committee after hearing the input which I'm sure I have heard a lot of privately and a lot of which will be repeated—and there will be a lot more come forward to the committee—that we may get some very excellent alternative recommendations or viewpoints come forward in the committee.

**Mr. Reid:** But the principle of the bill can't be changed in committee.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** The principle of the bill is that we have a licensed trucking industry in this province.

**Mr. Reid:** It's in the Act. You have that right here. It is not in the amendment.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** We're dealing, as far as I am concerned, with an amendment to the Public Commercial Vehicles Act. The Public Commercial Vehicles Act is the Act that controls the trucking industry. I think we would all agree there has to be some control in the trucking industry, as there does with the Public Vehicles Act in dealing with buses and as we have under federal regulation in dealing with the licensing of air carriers, the railways and other communications facilities.

I think this is one of those industries which would be complete chaos without regulation. With this new type of transportation that has come about in the last number of years, we need amendments to the Act to define and to separate the duties and the area of business to be covered by the private carrier, the



licensed carrier and the lessor. I'm sure when this bill is referred to committee, given full study and reported back here, that it will serve that purpose.

**Mr. Cunningham:** Would the minister entertain some questions?

**Mr. Speaker:** As I understand it, it will be referred to a committee and there will be opportunity for questions then, unless it is a very brief question that the hon. minister might reply to.

**Mr. Cunningham:** Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, I just wondered if the minister would indicate to us, and through us to the truckers, just how many leasing operations would be allowed to exist and what form of leasing endeavour would be allowed to exist should this legislation be passed.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question would be more appropriately put at the appropriate time.

The House divided on the motion that Bill 4 be now read a second time, which was approved on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS
Belanger	Breithaupt
Bounsall	Bullbrook
Breaugh	Campbell
Brunelle	Cunningham
Burr	Eakins
Cassidy	Edighoffer
Davidson	Ferris
(Cambridge)	Gaunt
Davis	Givens
Davison	Good
(Hamilton Centre)	Hall
Deans	Kerrio
di Santo	Mancini
Drea	McEwen
Dukszta	Mckessock
Eaton	Miller
Evans	(Haldimand-Norfolk)
Ferrier	Newman
Gigantes	(Windsor-
Gregory	Walkerville)
Grossman	Nixon
Henderson	O'Neil
Irvine	Peterson
Johnson	Reed
(Wellington-	(Halton-Burlington)
Dufferin-Peel)	Reid
Jones	(Rainy River)
Kennedy	Riddell
Kerr	Ruston
Lane	Sargent
Laughren	Smith
Lawlor	(Nipissing)
Leluk	Smith
Lupusella	(Hamilton West)

AYES  
MacBeth  
MacDonald  
Mackenzie  
Maeck  
Makarchuk  
McCague  
McNeil  
Moffatt  
Morrow  
Newman  
(Durham North)  
Norton  
Parrott  
Philip  
Renwick  
Rhodes  
Samis  
Sandeman  
Scrivener  
Smith  
(Hamilton Mountain)  
Snow  
Stephenson  
Taylor  
Timbrell  
Warner  
Welch  
Wildman  
Williams  
Wiseman  
Young  
Ziemba—60.

NAYS  
Spence  
Stong  
Sweeney  
Worton—31.

**Clerk of the House:** Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 60, the "nays" are 31.

**Mr. Speaker:** I declare the motion carried.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

[5:15]

**Mr. Speaker:** I understand the bill is to be ordered to the appropriate standing committee.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** The standing committee on resources development, please, Mr. Speaker.

Agreed.

#### PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved second reading of Bill 39, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall this bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

### THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 39, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

### COMMODITY BOARD MEMBERS ACT

Hon. W. Newman moved second reading of Bill 5, An Act respecting Members of Commodity Boards.

**Mr. MacDonald:** There were some facetious interjections across the floor of the House a moment ago drawing a parallel between marketing boards and the legislation we have just debated. As a matter of fact, they are not quite facetious. There is more truth in them than fiction.

One of the problems when one decides to achieve more orderly administration of any sector of human activity is that you have to lay down rules and regulations. The principle of this bill is coming to grips with something which has become a bit perplexing in the area of commodity boards, namely certain people on occasion—strange as it may seem even people who happen to be on the board—who do not live by the regulations that presumably they are obligated to respect and to share in their administration.

As I understand this bill, unless there is some sleeper in it that the minister will enlighten us about so that we can be clearly aware as we pass it, the purpose of this bill is merely to cope with the kind of situation that the minister found himself faced with in the instance of the egg board, where we had two or three members of the board who were in violation of the quota regulations in connection with the board and yet presumed to continue in that conflict of interest in pursuit of their responsibilities as members of the board. The minister was faced with the rather strange and Draconian act of abolishing the whole board and then reappointing those who were willing to live up to their obligations.

I presume that the minister hopes, through this amendment, to correct that kind of situation so that henceforth any member of the board who doesn't live up to the regulations laid down by the board through their collective action, will immediately sort of dis-

qualify himself or at least they will empower the minister to see that he is removed. Obviously this is not only necessary, it is sensible. Indeed, what flows from it is the added addendum to the principle, namely that anybody within that commodity group, if there has been a majority decision made in accordance with acceptable procedures in order to achieve orderly marketing, they too, have to live by the rules, at least until those rules are changed by agreement.

I think this is a bit of tidying up of an Act which perhaps had an unwitting flaw in it, and as far as we can see the purpose of the Act, we are in support of it.

**Mr. Riddell:** Mr. Speaker, as was just indicated by the former speaker, the purpose of the bill is really to give the Farm Products Marketing Board some authority to dismiss members of commodity boards who in any way act in contravention of the various commodity plans or the Farm Products Marketing Act.

This probably came about because of the problem that existed in the Egg Producers Marketing Board last year, which resulted in the dismissal by the minister of the entire board and then the reappointing of those members who were prepared to live up to the legislation. I am just wondering if perhaps this bill goes far enough, or if we should be taking a look at some of the board members who do have a conflict of interest. Going back to that Egg Producers Marketing Board, we know full well that one member on that board was not only a large producer but he also made quite an income in marketing eggs, and not just those eggs which he produced himself. It is my feeling that this particular board member had a conflict of interest, and to my way of thinking he should not have been permitted to sit on the board in the first place. I can't see that this bill in any way does not permit such a member to sit on a board.

I would appreciate the minister's comments on this, but certainly we support this amendment. The Farm Products Marketing Board is an agency of government, so therefore we feel that the minister, through the Farm Products Marketing Board, should have some **authority to dismiss elected members** who in some way are acting in contravention of the legislation.

**Mr. Renwick:** Mr. Speaker, I naturally support what the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) said in that we will support the



principle of the bill, but I did want to raise with the minister on second reading a couple of matters in the bill which are of concern to me so that when the bill goes to committee, as we propose that it would, the minister might have an opportunity to give consideration to it.

Basically, the bill provides two prohibitions or creates two possibilities under which a member of any of the local boards under either the Milk Act or the Farm Products Marketing Act can be disqualified. My concern is that even though a person is sitting on one of the local boards and the commodity board may have knowledge come to it which would lead it to believe that a contravention of the Act had occurred, nevertheless if it doesn't act within six weeks after it receives the knowledge about a person, even though the person after that date continues to sit on the board, it is precluded from dealing with any application which may be made to determine whether or not the person should or should not be disqualified.

I would have assumed that that six-week period during which an application must be commenced would have extended to the six weeks at least up to and including six weeks after the person ceased to be a member of the particular board. Otherwise, we would have the anomaly of a producer or the board being in possession of knowledge which would lead them, on reasonable grounds, to believe that there may possibly have been a contravention of the prohibitions set out in the Act, and yet no application could be brought because the six-week period would have elapsed and the person would continue on, even though there had been an undetermined issue of whether or not there had been a contravention of the Act. That's the first point and it does seem to me that the Act is unduly restrictive with respect to the duration of that six-week period.

The other matter which concerns me is the \$300 and the conditions under which it can be returned by the tribunal. We have the strange provision that a person might very well be found to have been in contravention of the Act but in one of the circumstances, if it turns out that that contravention is inadvertent and, therefore, the person is not disqualified by the tribunal, nevertheless the person who had put up the \$300 would have that \$300 forfeited because there would not have been a disqualification.

It would seem to me to be appropriate, rather than penalizing the producer in such

a situation as that—I would assume he would have acted in a bona fide way in bringing the application given the prospect of forfeiture of the deposit up to \$300 that he may be required to make—that the tribunal should, when it makes its decision, have the alternative option not simply of returning it in one case and forfeiting it to the government of Ontario in the other case, but should have the option to exercise its discretion if it has found a contravention, even though inadvertent. I would seem to me that the producer should not be penalized and lose the \$300 he's had to put up in order to bring the application in the first place.

I simply make the two points and hope that before the bill comes to the committee the minister might have an opportunity to consider whether or not some flexibility couldn't be introduced in the Act in those two respects.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does any other hon. member wish to take part in the debate? The hon. minister.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill, as was outlined by both the member for York South and the other member, it is quite true is to allow, under legislation, the Farm Products Marketing Board or the Milk Commission to hear cases of violation against the regulations of the local boards. There is a judicial appeal, of course, from this decision if necessary.

I must say that I had occasion to call all the boards around the province to a meeting at which we discussed the principles and the ideals of the bill. Since the bill has been tabled in the House, I think I'd be safe in saying that the various marketing boards of the Province of Ontario concur with the contents of the bill.

**Mr. Nixon:** Why wouldn't they?

**Hon. W. Newman:** They are very honest people. What we're saying, coming down to the six weeks which was brought up by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), under section 4(1), is this is merely to say an accuser must, in six weeks, make up his mind on whether or not he wants to start proceedings. He must make up his mind in six weeks.

The other thing, on the \$300 deposit, it says up to \$300. This is to stop vexatious or frivolous appeals. That would be the maximum deposit they would have to make. That's the reason it was put in there and I doubt very much, if it was a sincere effort

that it would have to be that; that's up to a maximum of \$300.

Somebody talked about a conflict of interest. I suppose we might say that all commodity boards are producer boards. There are occasions when producer boards are price-setting entities and one might suggest they might be in conflict of interest but, by and large, they have to answer for their various commodities, their operating costs and the total costs of their commodities.

I think the point one member brought out about any specific person is covered in one of the sections. I believe it is section 2 sub (1), in which a prohibition applies to somebody who is a senior officer of or has a controlling interest in any particular company from sitting on the board.

Really, as was said, this is a tidying-up piece of legislation. I think, after talking to the various boards, if the members wish it to go to committee of the whole House, I'm quite agreeable, but certainly the boards have had a chance to go over it in detail. Their legal people have and I feel it's a good piece of legislation.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

[5:30]

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall this bill be referred to committee or ordered for third reading?

**Mr. Renwick:** Committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** Committee of the whole house?

Agreed.

#### DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. W. Newman moved second reading of Bill 6, An Act to amend the Drainage Act, 1975.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, this is even more so just a housekeeping bill, as I understand it; indeed, the explanatory note in section 1 states that it simply removes a section of the bill so as to make it conform with what is the regular practice. Again, I'm always hesitant on these housekeeping bills in case there is a little sleeper in there. On more than one embarrassing occasion in the past we have had bills go through which were presented as housekeeping bills; but it seems to be rather an innocent tidying effort and, unless I'm being deceived, is worthy of support.

**Mr. Laughren:** You wouldn't deceive us, would you, Bill?

**Mr. Worton:** Not unintentionally.

**Mr. Riddell:** In connection with Bill 6, I must say that at first I didn't understand the intent of the amendment and I tried to have this matter cleared up by the Minister of Agriculture and Food some time last week. Strange as it may seem, at that time he wasn't too sure what the intent of the bill was. He thought the purpose of the bill was to prevent the type of situation in which one member of joint ownership of property could prevent the others from signing so that a project could go ahead. That's really not the intent of the amendment as it was explained to me. The amendment will simply clear up an infringement on what has been common law in the past.

The Drainage Act states that only one such person may sign the petition but the law has always been that in cases of ownership of property, all owners must sign and rightfully so. In other words, if there happens to be four owners of a property, I would think, if they're joint owners of that property, they should all be required to sign before any decision is made as to what is going to happen.

We're talking about drainage and I would think that all four owners should be required or obliged to sign a petition for, let's say, a municipal drain to go through or any kind of a tile drainage programme.

The phrase was originally included because the government wanted to count all concerned owners as one property but adding the phrase "only one such person may sign the petition" went against common law which, of course, has applied through the years. Really, it's a case that now all owners of joint property have to sign a petition. The nice part of Bill 75, of course, is that the properties are taken into consideration, not the owners of a property, so when all four owners sign it is really considered as one signature. It pertains to that particular property and it doesn't involve other properties, so if 50 per cent of the representatives of the people want the project to go through, it will do so—the others can't stop it—or 60 per cent of a land area will permit a project to go through.

Really we support the amendment. I will say again that it was certainly vague when I first tried to understand what the intent of it was, but now that it's been explained by the legal adviser to the Minister of Agriculture and Food—



**Mr. Nixon:** That's the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson).

**Mr. Riddell:** —I'm sure that both the minister and I are now enlightened on this particular amendment, as is the member for Lambton, who didn't seem to know what it was all about, either, when I first approached him.

**Mr. Nixon:** Surely not, after all the money we've spent educating him.

**Mr. Ferrier:** I would like to say a word on behalf of this bill and to say that I am sure the member for Lambton knows very well what this amendment is all about.

**Mr. Ruston:** No, he didn't.

**Mr. Ferrier:** The select committee recommended that only one such person should be able to sign a petition; I think this was an effort to expedite a petition and to cut down in the delays that sometimes prevail in getting all the owners together to sign a petition to represent their property.

I wonder if we are perhaps catering a bit too much to the lawyers at the expense of the average farm person. It seems to me that a husband or a wife could very well sign without both having to sign the petition. I am not so sure that it is much of an advance. I think the select committee, in proposing the legislation that was there, perhaps was more representative of the general feeling of the farm community than is this amendment.

I notice the second amendment allows a practising solicitor to become the drainage referee, rather than requiring that the referee should be a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge of the county court. I don't know whether there is much significance in that or not. I suppose, if a lawyer is well qualified in drainage legislation and drainage practice, that he could perform the role just as satisfactorily as the judge. I don't object very much to that, but in the other matter I think maybe we are playing too much into the hands of the lawyers and not sufficiently considering the average farming citizen.

**Mr. Renwick:** My colleague has just played into my hands. I think, as a matter of fact, that the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) was quite right before he consulted the ministry, and thereafter I think he was as confused as the ministry is. I think that the recommendation of the drainage committee was the correct one and that this amendment shouldn't be made. But that's by the by.

The point that concerns me is the point that my colleague has just raised about a barrister of 10 years' standing being appointed as a referee under the Act. I don't object to that; it looks to me like a lucrative field of practice.

**Mr. Nixon:** Look into it.

**Mr. MacDonald:** The judges are already overburdened anyway.

**Mr. Renwick:** But what I am concerned about, and I ask the minister to seriously look into it, is that there is a prohibition in that Act which says "that no referee or acting referee shall practise as a solicitor or barrister in any matter arising under the Act or act as legal agent or adviser in any such matter."

I take that to mean that that prohibition only applies during the period of time under which he is either a referee or an acting referee. I think that is much too wide open to abuse by a bar which may very well have a certain expertise in the system. One day they are acting as a referee and another day they are acting and practising before another referee or advising in connection with matters arising under the Act.

I think it is quite wrong that there is not some prohibition that if a barrister chooses to be appointed as a referee or as an acting referee, that when his appointment ceases he should be precluded for a definite period of time thereafter from practising in that particular field and giving the kind of advice which is required under the Act.

I say this quite advisedly, because if the minister will look at the very important powers which a referee has by way of original jurisdiction under section 105 of the Drainage Act, he will see that the function to be performed by the referee is a significant and important function and carries with it immense powers.

If it turns out as I said—and I repeat myself—that the particular barrister wants to accept this appointment to be a referee or an acting referee he should be precluded for some period of time after he ceases to be a referee or an acting referee from practising in that so-called field of this Drainage Act. It's extremely important.

Anyone can see by the listing of the various items set out in section 105 that the referee performs a most important judicial function. To have him one day acting as referee and the day afterwards not acting as a referee, or one day acting as an acting referee, and when that particular job for which he has

been appointed acting referee ceases to find that he can immediately step back into the practice involved in this whole procedure which has been set up, to me is quite wrong. I would ask the minister when the bill is in committee seriously to consider adding some further restriction to that provision.

**Mr. Eaton:** I just wanted to mention as a member of that committee that in section 1 one of the other members of the committee mentioned he didn't feel we were carrying out the intent. We are carrying out the intent of the committee report. The intent was that, no matter how many owners there were of the property, that property would only be considered as one when it came to petitioning, and that was carried out when we brought in the new Act. This amendment still maintains it that way, except that if there are four owners, they must all sign for that property even though it represents one on the petition because there might be disagreement amongst those four owners and one of the owners could bind the other three to something they didn't agree with. So they must all agree and sign to represent that property, and it does carry out the intent of the report of the select committee.

**Mr. Breithaupt:** I just wanted to comment upon what was said by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick). As I recall, the small claims courts, formerly the division court system, had in their operation the opportunity for the county court judge to appoint from among members of the bar that had 10 years experience someone to act as his deputy and to sit in the division court from time to time. This practice has continued and, I suppose, is of use when a barrister of some experience is available to sit in for a county court judge who, because of the pressures of other activities, perhaps in an area that has only one or two judges available to it, requires this kind of assistance. As a result, I presume that's how the 10-year standing term came into this legislation, since that appears to be the basis for this kind of an approach.

What the member for Riverdale has said, I think, bears some serious concern, because it would appear that, while one might sit in division court—or now in the small claims court—as a judge and then return to it and appear before that court the next month or so, very little harm may have been done. There are a great variety of cases that might come forward; and to sit in judgement on one's fellow man or woman, I suppose, is something that a barrister might like to do

at least on some occasions before he or she considers seriously whether this is the way of life that they might more permanently enjoy.

However, in this circumstance, as has been pointed out, we are dealing with a particularly narrow expertise which may only involve a small number of barristers within the province. As a result, it could well be that a barrister sitting as a referee on one occasion with, shall we say three other lawyers appearing before that tribunal situation, might the next week around find the same four people involved but some one of the others might be the referee in that case. Indeed it might become rather difficult to draw the line between the person sitting as referee and the people who are involved before the courts. This difference of decision-making and presentation to the system might indeed become somewhat smudged and blurred if persons are moving back and forth almost on a weekly or monthly basis.

I would agree that some consideration should be given to requiring a choice to be made, if not for a lifetime situation at least perhaps for six months or for a year, so that it would be clearly understood that during that time the person involved was available to be a referee but would stand aside from the actual presentation of cases before other situations.

[5:45]

I think the point raised has some merit, and I hope the minister will consider some kind of a pattern so that this possibility of difficulty could be avoided.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Mr. Speaker, I want to say now that I have the experimental farm of Ottawa in my riding I feel qualified, as I wasn't qualified before, to talk about agricultural problems. I don't want you to forget that I have some of the most valuable farmland in all of Canada in the middle of my riding.

**Mr. Renwick:** They grow marijuana too, don't they?

**Mr. Cassidy:** That's right, it's also got the best marijuana plants in the country and we have other specialities there as well. If anybody wishes samples I'll make private arrangements.

**Mr. Renwick:** That's right.

**Mr. Cassidy:** I just want to say that it has come to my attention that there are some serious potential problems arising with the cost of some of the land drainage schemes



which are taking place in my region of the province, and perhaps elsewhere as well.

I am tabling, in a couple of days, written questions on this matter with the minister, which I hope he and his department take the trouble to answer. The allegations, which I believe will stand up, are that a large number of land drainage projects being proposed in rural townships are coming in very substantially over the estimated costs; both the cost of the consultant's fees and also the cost of the projects themselves. As a consequence, the people who agreed to these drainage schemes are being put, not just to inconvenience, but to obviously severe financial loss. If they knew in advance what the ultimate cost would be, I suspect in many cases they would not go forward with the scheme, or they would reconsider the scheme and look for something that was more modest and more within their means.

So long as there is provincial funding given to these schemes in the form of low-interest loans and other kinds of subsidies, it seems to me the province has a direct interest, as well as its indirect interest in ensuring that the farming community is not abused by city slickers who come out and sell them a bill of goods. If these allegations prove to be correct, I would hope the minister would agree to take early action in order to stop it and in order to ensure that people in the townships are fairly treated.

The problem is that if there is a serious cost overrun, as has happened in a number of cases, it only happens once or twice in a particular township over two or three or four years, and then it goes somewhere else. So people don't detect a pattern, and don't realize that it wasn't an accident but that it was more by design. Not realizing the pattern, they don't take action and, therefore, it's possible for this abuse to continue. I hope the minister will look into that situation.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, dealing with section 1, in order that I can explain it to you, prior to this amendment, if there were four joint owners on a particular piece of property they all counted in the petition, so that actually a majority of owners could actually control a majority of the land. What I'm saying under this amendment is that each parcel of land, no matter how many owners are on that particular parcel of land, would be dealt with on an individual basis, so that we couldn't have four owners signing here and only one over here. We would look at it from a property point of view—50 per cent of the owners or 60 per cent of the acreage.

One of the problems in the past was that one individual could sign and represent 100 acres, while four individuals could sign and have the same amount of representation on 100 acres. This is to clear this up.

There were a couple of other points brought up under section 1. I think the member over there brought up the matter of the husband and wife. I'd just like to clarify this point. Where there is joint ownership of property, in many cases in the past the husband has signed on the drainage situation and the wife has not signed and that's gone through. Members know the law as well as I know the common law, and if there is joint ownership of the property they both have a responsibility.

In most cases the husband has signed—I have done so myself—in anticipation that there is no problem. Certainly, when there is joint ownership one can't have one person signing away the rights of another. I want to make that point very clear to the House.

Talking about section 2, members were talking about the referee. The reason for this amendment to the bill is that we have had difficulties in getting a judge who is knowledgeable in this field to act as a referee. The one we had, who is deceased, did an excellent job for many years; he was appointed. We have a judge appointed on a temporary basis now but it is the practice and has been the practice for many years that when a referee is appointed he is appointed and acts in that capacity for many years; as this one judge acted in that capacity for many years.

**Mr. Nixon:** Was that Judge Clunis? Who was that?

**Hon. W. Newman:** That's right, and he did an excellent job. What we are asking for here is the right to appoint a senior lawyer, who is properly knowledgeable, as a referee; who would act as a referee for a period of time—assuming a long-term period of time would be our intention—providing he is prepared to act in that capacity. I suppose, when he is not acting in that capacity at sometime in the future, it's possible he could be acting in the courts. I think it's very important to note—

**Mr. Breithaupt:** The minister wouldn't preclude that person from acting during the term of his being a referee? In other words, so long as he is serving as a referee for two years or five years or whatever, he would not be able to appear in matters such as this. Is that correct?

**Hon. W. Newman:** Yes, that is my understanding. That's correct.

**Mr. Renwick:** And for one year thereafter?

**Hon. W. Newman:** I beg your pardon?

**Mr. Renwick:** And for one year thereafter?

**Hon. W. Newman:** No, I don't think that's in the bill.

**Mr. Renwick:** It's not in the bill but I am just asking.

**Hon. W. Newman:** No. Certainly, as long as he is acting as a referee he would not be able to act in any other capacity on drainage.

The member mentioned the cost of drainage and I am looking forward to his giving me some information on the problems to which he has referred with drainage. I assume he is talking about drainage contractors, I don't know, but certainly I will look forward—

**Mr. Cassidy:** And engineers.

**Hon. W. Newman:** If there is anything wrong anywhere in the Drainage Act, we are only too glad to look at the situation. I look forward to the member's statistical material. I think I have covered—

**Mr. Cassidy:** I want the minister to get the material and look into the allegations which the member is prepared to bring forward.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

**Hon. Mr. Welch:** Committee of the whole House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Committee of the whole House.

Agreed.

#### TERRITORIAL DIVISION AMENDMENT ACT

**Mr. Norton,** on behalf of **Hon. Mr. McKeough,** moved second reading of Bill 7, An Act to amend the Territorial Division Act.

**Mr. Young:** Mr. Speaker, this bill is, as far as I can see, a housekeeping matter, bringing the terminology up-to-date and extending boundaries. As far as we are concerned we

agree with the bill and are willing for it to go to third reading.

**Mr. Good:** Mr. Speaker, we are agreed on the need for this bill in that since no townships exist any longer in the area covered from Toronto to Hamilton, under regional government, the boundaries of the former townships which formerly went out to the international boundary now have to be referred to as existing boundaries in other municipal structures. We have no objection to this bill.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

#### THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

**Bill 7, An Act to amend the Territorial Division Act.**

#### LOCAL IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENT ACT

**Mr. Norton,** on behalf of **Hon. Mr. McKeough,** moved second reading of Bill 8, An Act to amend the Local Improvement Act.

**Mr. Renwick:** Perhaps the parliamentary assistant would give us a word of explanation. We can see no reason for not supporting the bill, but we would like a word of explanation about it.

**Mr. Norton:** Mr. Speaker, the amendment that is proposed in this bill is directed particularly at the situation where municipalities would be dealing with local improvements along boundary lines or boundary roads and where they might enter into joint undertakings. It allows for the introduction of greater flexibility in terms of the options available to the municipality under those circumstances so that they might, within a given municipality, opt either to permit the residents to pick up their share on the basis of local improvement or, as a municipality, to pick up the residents' share. It merely allows that additional option to be introduced under those circumstances.

**Mr. Good:** Mr. Speaker, I think one matter that should be mentioned about this bill is that it now eliminates the age-old problem in-



volving a boundary between two municipalities that wanted to have some local improvement. Previously, it was necessary for both municipalities to come to agreement; and it was very cumbersome to carry out work where one municipality wanted to charge it to local improvements and the other municipality wanted to pay it out of the general revenue.

Now, as I understand it, according to this amendment, one municipality can make the application for the local improvement and look after the complete procedure; then, by agreement with the other municipality, it can collect their portion directly from that municipality. It eliminates the red tape involved in two municipalities co-operating on one project. One can look after it and, simply by mutual agreement, collect the fee from the other one; and the other one then can get it as they see fit, either from their general revenue or by charging their taxpayers. It's supposed to streamline the procedure considerably, according to municipal officials.

**Mr. Cassidy:** I've got a comment here, Mr. Speaker. Since the statement was so ably supplemented by the member for Waterloo

North, we would certainly support the bill. It obviously does induce added flexibility and it makes sense.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is there any further discussion? Does the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands wish to respond.

**Mr. Norton:** No, I think I have nothing to add, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Cassidy:** You have passed that baptism of fire.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

### THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 8, An Act to amend the Local Improvement Act.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)  
Norton, K. (Kingston and the Islands PC)  
O'Neil, H. (Quinte L)  
Parrott, Hon. H. C.; Minister of Colleges and Universities (Oxford PC)  
Peterson, D. (London Centre L)  
Philip, E. (Etobicoke NDP)  
Reed, J. (Halton-Burlington L)  
Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L)  
Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)  
Rhodes, Hon. J. R.; Minister of Housing (Sault Ste. Marie PC)  
Riddell, J. (Huron-Middlesex L)  
Rollins, C. T. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)  
Sandeman, G. (Peterborough NDP)  
Sargent, E. (Grey-Bruce L)  
Smith, S. (Hamilton West L)  
Snow, Hon. J. W.; Minister of Transportation and Communications (Oakville PC)  
Stephenson, Hon. B.; Minister of Labour and Acting Minister of Health (York Mills PC)  
Swart, M. (Welland NDP)  
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)  
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.; Minister of Energy (Don Mills PC)  
Welch, Hon. R.; Minister of Culture and Recreation (Brock PC)  
Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Education (Scarborough North PC)  
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)  
Worton, H. (Wellington South L)  
Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)  
Young, F. (Yorkview NDP)





Legislative Assembly

# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

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Tuesday, April 6, 1976

Evening Session

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Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe  
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

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TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1976

The House resumed at 8 o'clock, p.m.

**Clerk of the House:** Government notice of motion No. 1.

## NOTICE OF MOTION No. 1

**Hon. Mr. McKeough** moved that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**Mr. Speaker:** I presume this is seconded by—

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The Premier (Mr. Davis).

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** And you'd better believe it.

**Mr. Ruston:** You're sure now?

**Mr. Breithaupt:** Don't look over here.

## BUDGET ADDRESS

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, this is the first time in this parliament that I have taken part in a formal debate and I hasten to begin by congratulating you, sir, on your re-election as Speaker. I congratulate your Deputy Speaker and the chairman of the committee of the whole House. Both of those latter gentlemen, I know, will have their hands full and their brains tested by the estimates debate which will ensue from this budget. I know that those debates and those discussions in the committee will be under their firm and very fair control.

I want to thank my own deputy, Mr. Rendall Dick; the executive director of the fiscal policy division, Mr. Duncan Allan; all those who work each year in the preparation of the budget, and the Chairman of the Management Board (Mr. Auld) and his staff who bring the estimates together in one place.

We have with us tonight, sir, or will have with us, I understand, three former Treasurers of the province—Mr. James Allan, Mr. Charles MacNaughton and Mr. John White, and I'm very glad to have them here.

As this is the first chance I've had to speak formally, I do want to congratulate formally the leaders of the two parties opposite. I expect the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) will be with us this evening before we go too far along in this particular speech. I appreciate his taking valuable time away from his—how can I describe it—rather cool and calculated campaign to be elected the next president of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. That seems to be what he's up to.

**Mr. Ferrier:** Never, never.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** I'm sure he would prefer to be in other parts of the province imparting yet more reassuring rhetoric to yet another somewhat sceptical audience. In fact, word has it that the Leader of the Opposition has officially replaced after-dinner mints as the sweetest thing on the Ontario banquet circuit.

**Mr. Singer:** The new joke writer isn't any good either.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** You people shouldn't talk about jokes over there.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** He has even gone further than that.

**Mr. Martel:** How much is this costing?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** He has taken to emulating other well-respected reasonable individuals in that he now actually smokes a pipe, and that's in some way fortunate for him, because it gives him something to clench his teeth on while he desperately lunges for power.

**Mr. Moffatt:** You are desperately lunging for words.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Oh, just wait for it over there. Speaking of power—

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Don't blow the fuses.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Is this part printed in the budget?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** I owe a personal debt of gratitude to the leader of the third party for—

**Mr. Breithaupt:** Run that though again, Darcy.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Anything I can do for a nice guy like you, Darcy.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** I owe a personal debt of gratitude to the leader of the third party, the member from Wimbledon. He has made it personally possible for me to be here tonight and I do want to thank him.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** And probably for quite a while to come.

**Mr. Breithaupt:** So far.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Your last budget got me elected. I want to hear this one.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** It was only a few short days ago that the leader of the third party broke the dizzying tension at Queen's Park to announce that he would defeat this government, and I'm quoting, "only if the budget was the worst in the province's history."

**Mr. Nixon:** You are the one person who can do it, too.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** As a show of gratitude for his support last evening, I am pleased to reciprocate and assure the hon. member that he'll be spared both the embarrassment and the actual physical strain of any further, frantic flip-flops, as the budget I'm about to table this evening—

**Mr. S. Smith:** Is only the second worst.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** —can only be described as responsible and the best.

**Mr. Breithaupt:** We are doing all right so far.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The 1976 budget I am presenting tonight reflects the determination of this government to keep the province's finances in good order.

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** It sticks to our plan for slashing the growth in provincial spending. It reorders priorities, trims government costs and reduces the number of civil servants. And it raises taxes in selective areas.

**Mr. Martel:** We only have to wear an extra shirt this year.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** With this plan of purposeful fiscal restraint, Ontario will achieve a large reduction in its cash requirements,

maintain its financial integrity and set an example for others to follow in the fight against inflation.

Reducing the rate of inflation remains the No. 1 objective for economic policy in 1976. The national Anti-Inflation Board has now been in operation for some six months, and I believe it is working.

**Mr. Lewis:** You have to believe it.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** We must persevere to make sure that it continues to be effective. Controls will be necessary until Canada's cost and price performance is brought back into line with that of our trading partners, particularly the United States.

The lesson from 1975 surely must be that Canada cannot escape from the discipline of international economic forces. Continuing high inflation in Canada is our responsibility, hence we must devise our own remedies. One of those remedies must be to reduce government spending rather than borrowing more, or printing more money. The government of Ontario has made the hard choice to cut back its spending and borrowing, and I am confident the people of Ontario will support that decision.

Before proceeding with the policies and prescriptions of this 1976 budget, I would like to call attention to the supporting documents to this statement. My overall budget presentation includes appendices dealing the tax changes; six budget papers which discuss the economy, health financing, expenditure restraint, the labour market, property tax reform, the auto pact; and a separate document on Ontario's financial assistance to local governments. These papers provide extensive documentation and perspective on the economic, fiscal and financial policies of the government of Ontario.

The Ontario economy ended 1975 on a firm recovery note. Members will recall that a year ago at this time we were experiencing a significant slowdown as the forces of world recession spilled over into our province.

**Mr. Renwick:** And a provincial election.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The government responded with immediate and powerful fiscal measures. We introduced temporary tax cuts and incentives amounting to almost \$600 million to reinforce purchasing power, to encourage home ownership and to stimulate the automobile industry.

These 1975 fiscal initiatives worked and they worked well. Sales, production and em-



ployment bounced back vigorously in the second half, erasing losses in the first half and building the momentum for renewed economic expansion in 1976.

Let me outline the economic returns from our bold stabilization actions in 1975, the full details of which are presented in budget paper A.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That's John White's version.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The temporary reduction in the retail sales tax caused a surge of buying by consumers and businesses, the benefits of which spread rapidly through the economy. Retail trade in Ontario accelerated by 17.8 per cent in the July-December period, nearly double the rate of the first half of the year. For the year as a whole, retail sales in Ontario outperformed the rest of Canada by almost two full percentage points. This major gain not only generated increased production and employment, but also created a climate of renewed optimism and confidence.

The \$1,500 grant to first-time home buyers was an overwhelming success. In its nine-month duration, 90,000 families took advantage of this incentive to acquire their first home. In 1975, first-time buyers accounted for fully 54 per cent of total housing sales as compared to about 30 per cent in a normal year. This large influx of new buyers into the housing market quickly impacted on housing starts. Whereas at mid-year urban housing starts were down by 14,000 units, more than 10,000 of this loss was recovered by the strongest second-half house-building performance in Ontario's history. And this resurgence of housing starts continued in the first quarter of 1976.

[8:15]

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The tax rebate on new car purchases also was a runaway success.

**Mr. S. Smith:** For Japan, Germany, Italy and France.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** The people in Oshawa should be grateful.

**Mr. MacDonald:** It didn't catch the votes in Oshawa.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Nearly 200,000 tax rebates were paid out under this six-month

incentive. This direct bonus to private spending turned the car market around in 1975 and propelled it to a record year of sales. Sales in Ontario ended the year at 14 per cent, versus a small decline for the rest of Canada. Production of cars exhibited a similar turnaround in volume and this strong recovery in production has carried over through the first three months of 1976.

These are welcome economic facts. They demonstrate the effectiveness of Ontario's expansionary policies in 1975 and they prove that direct and immediate incentives to the private sector are the best way to get economic results.

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** I am forecasting a good year for the Ontario economy in 1976.

**Mr. Foulds:** Very good.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** You guys in Oshawa should be down on your knees thanking him.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The internally generated surge of activity in the second half of 1975 has built momentum for continued expansion throughout this year. This will be reinforced by the recovery in the US economy and the strong external demand for our exports.

Overall, I expect Ontario's real gross provincial product to grow by 5.3 per cent, a somewhat higher increase than is expected for Canada as a whole. Price increases should moderate to nine per cent or less, permitting real income gains both to labour and to business.

In 1976, employment is expected to increase by 3.2 per cent or 116,000 jobs. Parallel expansion in the labour force, however, means that we cannot confidently expect any significant improvement in the unemployment rate. The province is monitoring this economic indicator closely. For an in-depth analysis of the Ontario labour market, I would refer members to budget paper D.

To sum up, the Ontario economy is back on trend. So this budget is based on the underlying strength and growth capacity of our economy during 1976. In the budget tonight, I have designed what I believe to be an appropriate fiscal policy and a responsible financial plan for the province. Again this year, I engaged in extensive pre-budget consultations with representatives of the labour, business, consumer, farming, professional and financial sectors of the economy. Their advice and that

of various economic research organizations assisted me materially, and for that contribution I would like to express my appreciation.

My conclusion is that the Ontario economy does not require government stimulation at this time. Rather, my colleagues and I believe that the thrust of provincial policy should be to rely on private sector expansion to generate growth and employment.

**Mr. Singer:** Along with Krauss-Maffei, yes.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Applaud, come on.

**Mr. Reid:** That's a pretty weak response.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** This does not imply a purely passive role for the government. It requires an active role in ensuring that the necessary resources flow into private activities and are not usurped by government spending and borrowing.

**Mr. Reid:** What are you going to give us now?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The expenditure policies I will now outline have been designed to accommodate this essential shift of resources into private incomes, profits and investment.

The first element in my 1976 fiscal plan is control of spending. In October, 1975, the Ontario government announced that it would limit its expenditure growth for the fiscal year to 10 per cent. The actual 1976 estimates to be tabled by the Chairman of the Management Board (Mr. Auld) come within a half of one per cent of that objective. Total spending for 1976-1977 is held to \$12.576 billion, which allows for an increase of \$1.185 billion or only 10.4 per cent over last year's level. This represents a sharp reduction in spending growth, a 15.9 per cent increase in 1975-1976 from the 24.7 per cent increase in 1974-1975. Every minister in this government knows first-hand what this has meant in terms of the public programmes for which he or she is responsible.

**An hon. member:** Yes, people get hurt.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** There have been loud objections from almost every interest group in the province to this necessary spending restraint. Not unexpectedly, the government has been commended for restraint in general but castigated for the specific applications where restraint grips in. However, there can be no escaping a shift in priorities, a trimming of costs and a reduction in staff if spending is to be controlled. The government has taken

these tough decisions because we are convinced that the size of the public sector must be decreased.

The spending policy of the government provides for the essential needs of our citizens. It also recognizes that new needs are emerging that merit funding. The allocation for the administration of justice has been increased by 19.1 per cent, support to post-secondary education has grown by 15.4 per cent, and spending on social development generally is up by 12.1 per cent.

On the other hand, there is an absolute cut in our provincial roads budget. The savings on our programmes allowed the province, for example, to increase its contribution to the Spadina subway from \$38 million in 1975-1976 to \$73 million in 1976-1977. The Ministry of Housing budget includes a new initiative, the downtown revitalization programme. It also extends for one year the OHAP incentive grants and loans to municipalities to increase the supply of serviced land. The 1976 budget of the Ministry of the Attorney General makes provision for the appointment of 46 additional judges and justices of the peace.

The estimates of every ministry, though restrained, make room for progress and advancement in our range of public services. For a complete summary of 1976 spending trends and the distribution among programmes, I call members' attention to budget paper C accompanying this statement.

It would be appropriate at this time to state that legislation will be introduced changing the GAINS residency criteria which is presently five years in Canada. Effective April 7, 1976, new applicants for GAINS must meet the same 10-year residency criterion that is required for federal OAS and GIS benefits.

**Mr. Lewis:** Shame.

**Mr. Renwick:** You ought to be ashamed of yourself.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** A key element in Ontario's policy of expenditure control is a further reduction in the number of civil servants on the provincial payroll. We are convinced, and the evidence of the past year confirms, that it does not require a growing bureaucracy to maintain and improve public services.

By the end of 1976-1977, our complement of civil servants will be reduced to 66,537—a drop of more than 4,200 from the 1974 level.

**Mr. Reid:** How many do you have on contract? You have 19,000 on contract.



**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** By contrast, since 1973 the federal government will have expanded its bureaucracy by some 39,000 bodies.

**Mr. Reid:** Tell us about Minaki Lodge.

**Mr. Lewis:** What's this stuff, "bodies"? People aren't just "bodies".

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Local governments are sharing the burden of restraint in Ontario.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Yes, they are bearing the burden.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Our 1976 estimates provide for an increase of \$225 million in grants to municipalities and school boards, a growth of 7.8 per cent. In previous years the province could afford to go over the Edmonton commitment and provide generous increases: \$291 million in 1974-1975 and \$558 million in 1975-1976. In retrospect, these large financial transfers from the province may have stimulated some local spending that wasn't absolutely necessary. I am encouraged, however, that local governments are co-operating with our restraint programme—

Interjection.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** —and setting realistic budgets. While on the subject of local government, I would like to inform the members of two important developments.

First, I propose to establish a committee of provincial and local officials to study the scope for deconditionalization and simplification of provincial grants. This is in response to requests from individual municipalities, the Municipal Liaison Committee and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. It is my hope that this committee will be able to report back by this autumn, so that our 1977 grant structure can be modified to allow greater freedom for local priority setting.

Second, in budget paper E, the government is advancing proposals on how the property tax structure can be reformed to accommodate reassessed property values. This paper outlines 15 proposals as the foundation of a new property tax system based on reassessed values. It is the government's desire that there be afforded the widest opportunity to participate in the development of a new tax system. A commission, including people knowledgeable in municipal and education finance, will be appointed to receive submissions and to make recommendations on the

new property tax system. The government's timetable calls for the commission to report back this fall, new legislation to be prepared by the spring of 1977, and a new property tax system using market value assessment to be in operation in 1978.

**Mr. Renwick:** We will see about that.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** To complement expenditure control, the second element in my 1976 fiscal plan is to increase taxes to reduce the province's cash requirements.

The expansionary tax cuts we implemented in 1975 necessarily required a sharp increase in our net cash requirements. Though final figures are not yet in, I estimate that net cash requirements reached \$1,889 million for 1975-1976. This is down \$87 million from the \$1,976 million—

**Mr. Renwick:** That's what we refer to as a deficit.

**Mr. Reid:** What about your supplementary estimates in the fall?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** —estimated in "Ontario Finances" three months ago. The last quarter improvement was due to rigorous in-year spending control enforced by Management Board and to stronger revenue yields at year-end.

The improving economic situation permits the province to secure a substantial reduction in its cash requirements for the coming year. Holding expenditures to 10.4 per cent while revenues expand at 15.9 per cent would go part way toward this objective. Without tax increases, I estimate our 1976-1977 net cash requirements would amount to \$1,560 million, or \$329 million below the 1975-1976 level.

I believe a further substantial reduction is desirable. Accordingly, I am proposing a package of tax actions which will raise an additional \$330 million in revenues.

One hundred per cent of the revenues from these tax increases will be applied directly to reduce the province's cash requirements. Thus, my budget calls for net cash requirements of only \$1,230 million in 1976-1977, representing a fiscal swing of some \$659 million from the 1975-1976 level. I am confident that the province can achieve this significant improvement in its finances without in any way dampening the buoyant economic expansion now under way.

I come now to the vital matter of tax policy. I am proposing a balanced and equitable package of tax changes which will raise

\$330 million in additional revenue this year. Let me affirm again that none of this additional revenue will be used to finance increased spending; every dollar will be used to reduce our cash requirements.

**Mr. Lewis:** Debts, that's what it is called; deficits.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order.

**Mr. Renwick:** In the English language it is called a debt. You people are the experts in debt.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, the member for Riverdale.

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The government has embarked on a long-term programme to reduce the cost spiral for hospital and medical services, including actions to eliminate surplus hospital beds, rationalize laboratory services and control the volume of laboratory tests. On the Medicare side, the Ontario Medical Association has agreed to a fee increase of 8.1 per cent, effective May 1, 1976.

**Mr. Renwick:** Very nice of them.  
[8:30]

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) will be bringing forward legislation to ensure that these economies and other constraints on health insurance spending are realized for fiscal 1976-1977. Complementary action is also necessary on the financing side.

**Mr. Lewis:** Yes, right.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Ontario must take action now to restore an appropriate and equitable balance on the financing of OHIP. I am proposing three complementary measures to achieve this objective: an increase in OHIP premiums; increased charges for semi-private and private accommodation in hospitals, and enriched premium assistance.

**Mr. Lewis:** Just ridiculous.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The current OHIP premiums of \$11 and \$22 per month finance only 23 per cent of the cost of insured health services. They yielded \$68 per capita in 1975-1976, while costs ran in excess of \$300 per capita. By contrast, in 1970-1971, per capita costs were \$162 and premiums amounted to \$81 per capita, or 50 per cent of costs.

To re-establish a better balance between the charges for health services and the cost of these services, I propose to increase OHIP premiums by \$5 per month single, and \$10 per month family, effective May 1, 1976.

**Mr. Renwick:** Unbelievable.

**Mr. Lewis:** Regressive taxes become the core of your party.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Budget paper B provides a detailed analysis—

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Budget paper B provides a detailed analysis of the trends in health insurance costs and financing. It also shows that Ontario's health premium system contains three large elements of progressivity. For most people the employer pays a large part of the health premium.

**Mr. Lewis:** That is utter nonsense.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The employer contribution is a taxable benefit under the progressive personal income tax.

Interjections.

**Mr. Renwick:** That is not so.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Low-income families, welfare recipients and all pensioners receive free coverage.

At present 88 per cent of group premiums are paid by employers.

**Mr. Renwick:** How many are not?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Accordingly, the impact of the premium increase on most working individuals and families will be modest. Of the total new revenues of \$228 million to be raised through the premium increase, I estimate that \$164 million will be paid by employers, \$22 million by employees, and \$42 million by pay-direct subscribers, such as professionals, businessmen, and the self-employed.

**Mr. Lewis:** Until they renegotiate their contracts.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The second measure I am proposing strengthens the link between utilization and the costs of health services. It involves the per diem charges for semi-private and private accommodation in hospitals. Currently hospitals levy user charges on such accommodation averaging \$7.50 and \$12 per day respectively. Effective May 1,



1976, these charges for privacy will be increased to \$11 per day for semi-private rooms, and \$22 per day for private rooms. This will raise an additional \$20 million directly from those people who receive these extra benefits. This extra revenue will be retained by hospitals and offset against their approved operating budgets.

The federal government intends to limit its financial participation in medicare and hospital services, leaving a heavier future burden of financing on the provinces. The OHIP premium increases and the increases in per diem charges I have proposed, in conjunction with the cost-cutting efforts of the Ministry of Health, will ensure that our health insurance plan does not consume an ever-increasing share of the government's general tax resources.

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, everyone in Ontario is enrolled in OHIP and is protected for the full range of medical and hospital services. Our premium assistance provisions ensure that the highest quality health care is accessible to all, regardless of income or financial circumstances. Presently more than 1.4 million persons, including all pensioners, welfare recipients and low-income families, enjoy free premiums, and others are subsidized for half of the premium.

Effective immediately I propose to broaden OHIP premium assistance and to strengthen further this progressive element of our health financing system. All persons currently entitled to free coverage will continue to enjoy this benefit when the higher premiums come into effect. Free coverage will be extended to single persons having taxable incomes of \$1,534 or less, and to families having taxable incomes of \$2,000 or less. Half premium rates will be available to single persons having taxable incomes between \$1,534 and \$2,000, and to families having taxable incomes between \$2,000 and \$3,000. This generous enrichment in premium assistance means that an additional 363,000 people, to a total of 1.8 million, will receive free or subsidized OHIP coverage. That's nearly one in four Ontario residents.

This enrichment of premium assistance will also lower the premium actually paid by many families, even after the \$10-a-month increase in the premium rate. For a family of four, for example, the broader assistance criteria will result in a net saving of up to \$132 where gross income falls below \$8,225 annually. The value of our broadened pre-

mium assistance will be no less than \$279 million in 1976-1977.

Mr. Speaker, the second area where I propose to secure additional revenue is from tobacco and alcohol. Effective April 20, 1976, the gallonage tax on beer will be raised by 7½ cents per gal., and the markup on spirits, wine and imported beer will be increased. This will mean approximately 30 cents on a 25-oz. bottle of spirits and 15 cents on a case of 24 bottles of beer. These increases will generate \$50 million in additional revenues for 1976-1977.

Effective midnight this day, the tax on cigarettes under the Tobacco Tax Act will be increased by five cents per package of 20 cigarettes. I estimate this will raise \$50 million in 1976-1977. In my consideration of the tobacco tax, I have concluded that some compensation for collection costs is warranted. Accordingly, I am also proposing that tobacco tax collectors receive compensation paralleling the vendor remuneration arrangements which apply under the Retail Sales Tax Act.

Mr. Speaker, the insurance premiums tax has remained unchanged at two per cent since 1956. Effective midnight this day, I propose to increase the rate to three per cent. The additional tax of a half of one per cent applicable to property insurance will continue in effect, over and above the new base rate of three per cent. I estimate this measure will generate an additional \$20 million in this fiscal year.

Let me turn now to some selective areas where tax cuts will yield positive and concentrated benefits.

I have decided to deploy our limited capacity to finance tax cuts by providing stronger incentives to Ontario's small business corporations. In this province of opportunity, the small businessman has a large role to play—as an employer, a supplier of goods and services, and an innovator.

Effective with fiscal years ending after April 6, 1976, the general 12 per cent rate of tax for corporations will be reduced to nine per cent on income eligible for the federal small business deduction. This preferential tax rate is a simple and straightforward incentive which will be readily understood by small corporations. As well, the benefits will be widely distributed to 50,000 Ontario companies. They will replace our present tax credit provisions, which proved to be too complex for many small businesses and reached only 20,000 companies.

The new low rate of tax for small business income will cost the province approximately

\$30 million in 1976-1977, about equal to what the tax credit would have cost. In addition, I am proposing transitional rules allowing small businesses to carry forward for one year unused credits accumulated under the previous incentive. This transition bonus will represent a one-time cost of \$8 million.

As a second incentive, I intend to increase the tax threshold at which small corporations are required to pay tax by instalments. At present, corporations with estimated tax liability of \$300 or more annually are required to pay the tax in six instalments over the course of their fiscal year. I propose that effective April 7 this limit be increased to \$2,000—thereby exempting an additional 5,000 small corporations from the necessity of remitting the tax by instalments. This simplification will cost the province \$2 million annually.

In the 1974 budget, Ontario proposed the creation of venture investment corporations. This proposal was designed to increase the supply of risk capital to small businesses and to provide much needed managerial assistance. It involves a tax deferral as an incentive to invest in venture investment corporations, and these new entities in turn would channel the funds into small business ventures. In my 1975 budget, I reaffirmed Ontario's confidence in the VIC concept as a viable instrument for stimulating investment in small businesses. The province's position is reinforced by the great interest for the proposal which has been shown by the private sector and at least two other provinces. Therefore, I will table legislation tonight, for first reading only, providing for the creation of venture investment corporations in Ontario. It is my hope that the interest created by this legislation will prompt the federal government to recognize the merits of the programme.

I am also proposing changes to the paid-up capital tax to assist Ontario's non-producing mining corporations, effective with fiscal years ending after April 6, 1976. I estimate the revenue loss from this change to be about \$1 million.

In summary, these four proposals will substantially assist small business in Ontario by improving after-tax earnings, increasing growth potential and reducing the complexity of tax compliance.

I would now like to discuss the status of the government's review of Crown charges. In announcing the doubling of the Crown dues in the 1974 budget, the government stated that this action was an interim measure pending a complete review of this rev-

enue field to be conducted by a task force under the joint direction of the Minister of Natural Resources and the Treasurer. This review has been completed and the "Report of the Timber Revenue Task Force" was made public in December, 1975, for comments by interested parties. The recommendations of the report and the comments received from the industry are now being considered. The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) will be introducing amendments to the Crown Timber Act before the end of 1976 to be effective Jan. 1, 1977.

I am also proposing three changes under the Retail Sales Tax Act to provide relief in selective areas, effective midnight this day. Together, these changes involve an estimated revenue loss of \$12 million annually:

The exemption level on prepared meals will be increased from \$4 to \$5; insulation materials used in existing residential units will be exempted; the value on which sales tax is calculated for mobile homes will be reduced in order to put them on the same basis as on-site construction.

I also propose to increase the fee for drivers of uninsured motor vehicles, from \$60 to \$100 per annum, effective Dec. 1, 1976.

**Mr. Singer:** Why don't you just take the fee off and make it compulsory?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Before concluding my discussion of tax actions, I would like to report briefly on progress made toward tax simplification as promised in the 1975 budget. My colleague, the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen), has identified many areas for streamlining which will be incorporated in upcoming legislation and in improved administrative procedures. Some changes, such as those relating to succession duties, have already been announced. Other improvements, such as the lower tax rate and the exemption from tax instalments for small corporations, are contained in the legislation to be introduced tonight.

To summarize, I am proposing tax increases amounting to \$353 million, as well as several reductions costing \$23 million. The net result will be \$330 million of additional revenue in 1976-1977. These necessary tax actions, along with spending restraint, will substantially reduce our cash requirements and strengthen our long-term finances.

**Mr. Lewis:** What happened to that liquor tax concession in the Throne Speech?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Ontario's fiscal restraint programme will make a vital contribu-



tion to the attack on inflation, but our long-run prosperity will depend on our ability to come to grips with other fundamental economic issues. In this regard, I believe that Canada is suffering from an economic malaise which goes deeper than the immediate problem on inflation.

[8:45]

In the last two years, Canada has been confronted with the economic challenges of energy, world recession and inflation. The government of Ontario has developed direct and positive response to these issues. But, with the exception of the national anti-inflation programme, we have been disappointed by the failure of the federal government to take effective economic leadership. It has failed to develop a realistic national energy policy.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** And the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) knows it well.

**Mr. Mancini:** The same old story.

**Mr. Cunningham:** Same old stuff.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Last year it left the burden of economic stimulation policy to Ontario and other provinces, and it has been unable to control its own spending growth. This failure to come to grips with basic economic issues is disturbing in light of the rapid deterioration in Canada's international competitive position. In manufactured goods, our trading deficit has reached a serious level. Our industrial productivity growth has become dangerously sluggish and important investment decisions are being postponed. This is reducing the nation's potential to ensure an adequate level of employment and income growth for our people.

To confront this situation, we need nothing short of a fresh start on developing a national economic policy for Canada. This must include a recognition that it is the free market economy, not bureaucratic regulation, upon which our present standard of living was achieved.

**Mr. Reid:** After 33 years you are getting the message.

**Mr. S. Smith:** After a \$2-billion deficit.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Come on, the member for London North (Mr. Shore) knows it's true.

**Mr. Reid:** You have been reading Galbraith over the weekend.

**Mr. Singer:** What did Donald Macdonald say to you, Darcy?

**Mr. S. Smith:** The repentant sinners have discovered free enterprise.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** It is the free market economy upon which our future economic growth must rely. While I want to reinforce our support for the temporary anti-inflation programme, we must also develop a hard strategy for a clean phase-out of the AIB when its goal has been accomplished.

I would like to propose a basis for the development of a policy for long-term, non-inflationary growth. It involves:

1. Even greater national efforts to cut down the rate of growth in government spending;
2. Development of a more realistic energy policy;
3. The development of an industrial strategy centred on productivity, and the maintenance of growth in our incomes, employment and the quality of our lives.

First, I would like to deal with efficiency in the public sector. If governments continue to expand faster than the private sector, I see no hope for either controlling inflation or solving other national economic problems. Too many of the talents of the nation are already locked up in government offices. The evidence is clear that our citizens do not want to pay higher taxes to buy more public services. They want higher real incomes and they want value for the taxes they already pay.

For many years, the level of government spending in Ontario has been significantly lower than in the rest of Canada. Our plan to contain provincial spending to a 10.4 per cent increase in 1976-1977 will further improve this performance.

**Mr. Martel:** That was last year.

**Mr. Cunningham:** The deficit is higher, though.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Looking at federal spending plans, I am quite frankly disillusioned with the national government's commitment to restraint.

**Mr. Reid:** That's what the municipalities say about you.

**Mr. S. Smith:** But you and your \$300 million—

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Federal spending this year will grow at 16 per cent or by an additional \$5.7 billion.

**Mr. Reid:** How much did you ask for when you were there last week?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** If the federal government had held its spending to the same growth rate as Ontario, Canadian taxpayers could have saved almost \$1.9 billion.

**Mr. Reid:** That's exactly what your deficit is.

**Mr. Lewis:** How much did you ask for last week?

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** We don't want to upset you, but it's true.

**Mr. Lewis:** Darcy, you give it to them; they'll support you anyway.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** In Ontario alone, the tax saving would have amounted to more than the \$740 million cost to Ontario consumers of the oil and gas price increases imposed by the federal government last year.

**Mr. S. Smith:** By your friends in Alberta.

**An hon. member:** No, your friends in Ottawa.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** One obvious way in which the federal government could achieve savings—

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** —is by improving its internal efficiency—

**Mr. Mancini:** You and Joe Clark in Alberta.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** —and reducing the size of its civil service. Earlier in this statement, I compared Ontario's complement reduction programme with the continuing increase in the size of the federal civil service.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Right on.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** At this point, I think it is interesting to compare the relative efficiency of the two levels of government.

**Mr. Singer:** Yes, do that.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** While federal budgetary spending is roughly three times that of Ontario, its bureaucracy is five times as large.

**Mr. Cunningham:** What is this? Is this restraint?

**Mr. Reid:** That's why the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) hired somebody to do a report on the use of land.

**Mr. S. Smith:** Why don't you compare the provincial with the municipal budgets?

**Mr. Reid:** There are 19,000 on contract.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

Interjections.

**Mr. Lewis:** Darcy, hit them again. Remember they are voting for you.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** That's our problem.

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** It has been lack of fiscal restraint on the part of governments, particularly the federal government—

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** —which has made necessary the high interest rate and tight money policy of the Bank of Canada. While I cannot quarrel with the Bank of Canada's monetary policies, I would point out to members that high interest rates are playing havoc with homeowners, with businessmen and farmers. The Minister of Agriculture and Food tells me, for example, that the increase in interest rates has added four cents a pound to the price of beef.

There is one further disturbing aspect of this matter of government spending.

**Mr. Lewis:** They're supporting you.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Put briefly, our growing concern is that among governments in Canada there is a lack of clarity and accountability about who is responsible for what.

**Mr. S. Smith:** You are adding to the confusion tonight.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Competition for the delivery of services leads to needless public confusion, waste and inefficiency, and inadequate attention by governments to their basic responsibilities.

Interjection.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** As a result, and just as we are doing in our relations with the municipalities, this government is determined, on the federal-provincial front, to pursue a policy of disentanglement. From the initiatives of the 1975 Premiers' conference and the special programme review we shall, in the coming months, be putting forward for inter-governmental discussion specific proposals to merge, transfer, exchange and, yes, even reprivatize public programmes and areas of responsibility.



**Mr. Singer:** That's good. Now tell us the bad news.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Our objective will be to ensure that the taxpayers in our federation are served more efficiently and effectively by all levels of government.

I would like to turn now to the energy issue, the second element in my approach to a national economic policy. Some two years ago Canada's first minister met to deal with the serious implications of the dramatically changed world energy situation. Since that meeting, Canada has made some progress but much more needs to be done.

On the plus side, the Sarnia-Montreal pipeline, which will contribute substantially to national oil self-reliance, is expected to be operating this fall. We have made progress in ensuring future energy supplies for Ontario with our participation in the Syncrude project. We are closer to our objective of securing major supplies of Canadian coal for Ontario Hydro and thereby reducing our reliance on foreign sources.

On the other hand, there have been disappointments. At best, we are only marginally closer to developing Arctic oil and gas than we were three years ago. Over the past two years we have been confronted with much more pessimistic predictions of the national deficit in oil trade. Perhaps most disappointing, Mr. Speaker, has been the upward spiral of oil and gas prices. I need not remind members or re-emphasize the vigorous stand which Ontario has taken on this issue.

**Mr. Sweeney:** What about Hydro?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Next month, Canada's first ministers will again tackle the issue of oil and gas price adjustments. Ontario is concerned that such a meeting could once again produce ill-timed price increases from which far too much of the revenue will go to government rather than toward private exploration and development activities. Last year only 25 per cent of the additional crude oil revenue was turned back for private exploration and development.

I have already emphasized that our major economic priority must be to regain, hold and expand Canada's share of export markets. Yet further oil and gas price increases, which regretfully are looming on the horizon, could seriously damage our competitive position by moving Canada ahead of the American energy cost structure. The inflationary impact of the last round of price increases is still working its way through our economy, and our exporters are just beginning to win their way

back into US markets as the recovery proceeds.

Many of our industries are highly sensitive to energy price changes and, in addition, their productivity is lagging behind US levels, suggesting that with respect to energy prices they need a competitive edge.

I have included a table in this section of my statement which shows our energy cost position relative to US industries before and after a possible price hike. Clearly, Canadian energy policy must be highly sensitive to broader industrial priorities and not further hinder our export efforts at this crucial time.

I would now like to turn to the broader questions of industrial strategy, and highlight what I see as the main priorities to ensure long-run productive growth in this country. These include the development of new high-technology industries as well as other measures to improve our competitive position, a comprehensive planning strategy for the province and the strengthening of our manufacturing base, particularly the automobile industry.

Productivity growth through the development of high-technology industries is an objective which is actively pursued by the governments of all of the industrial countries of the world and a surprisingly large number of underdeveloped nations. Canada appears to be the exception. We have, at the federal level, a massive concern for industrial intervention and regulation where there should be a concerted and national drive for scientific and industrial research backed by joint public and private development of emerging high-technology industries.

The Canadian market is limited. Exports are crucial to the successful survival of our technology. The competition from other national governments with low-cost loans and subsidies is intense. Frequently, these subsidies and cheap loans are blended with a foreign aid package. What Canada needs is a national effort in developing and marketing Canadian technology.

As one example, Ontario has, in the past two years, assembled, through the Urban Transportation and Development Corp. and with the co-operation of the Toronto Transit Commission, a first-rate design and development capacity in urban transit systems.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Krauss-Maffei?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** We have supported new modes of transit such as the GO system and successfully developed and marketed mini-buses and a radically improved streetcar

which will be operating on TTC routes next year. What can be done now is to transform this capacity into a national industry producing national income and employment benefits through its exports to other nations. We urge the federal government to participate with us in such a venture.

**Mr. Cassidy:** We were telling you that a long time ago.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Turning to the question of our ability to compete in world markets, I am deeply concerned that Canada has moved too quickly to wage and salary parity with the United States in industries where productivity simply does not match the output standards of our major competitor.

Unless we can make substantial gains in our productivity performance, Canada's trade balance will continue to deteriorate and inflation will not be contained. Nothing we do, no manipulation of government spending or taxes or subsidies or job-creating programmes can ever escape that simple fact. You cannot sell government programmes in the export market.

Capital investment in manufacturing must be increased substantially if we are to achieve necessary increases in productivity. Much has been made of the significant capital investment requirements of the energy and natural resource industries. However, investment in secondary manufacturing has grown very little as a result of inflationary pressures and it is my feeling that this lack of investment has also been related to uncertainty about federal economic policy.

To confront this problem I would like to see a national effort in support of applied technology and research; a concerted programme to exploit the advantages of scale and size in industry; and a more positive and innovative attitude toward foreign investment and foreign technology which would not sacrifice our independence or our sovereignty.

[9:00]

Moreover, we must accept the fact that the international trading environment is changing. The province has traditionally supported high tariffs for manufactured goods, a policy which has generally operated to the benefit of Canada and Ontario. Unfortunately, some industries have relied on tariffs as a permanent shield from international competition rather than as a transitional measure. The current round of GATT negotiations will provide us with the opportunity to expand foreign markets but, at the same time, it will create the challenge and the necessity to improve pro-

ductivity at home. I believe we can rely on all elements of the private sector, labour and management alike, to meet this challenge.

I spoke earlier of the need to revitalize our manufacturing sector in order to improve our competitive position. In this regard, I believe we must start with the auto industry which supports, directly or indirectly, one in every six jobs in this province. For 11 years the industry has been operating under the Canada-US auto pact. While the agreement has worked well in facilitating the development of a more efficient, integrated auto industry on both sides of the border, we cannot count on past successes. In our view, fundamental problems have developed. They threaten the long-term viability of both auto assembly and parts manufacturing in Canada and the economic well-being of this province. An accompanying budget paper fully documents three major problems which exist in this industry. They are a widening productivity gap; a declining Canadian share of auto assembly; and serious losses in Canadian parts production.

In the course of the past three years, the country has gone from a virtual balance in Canada-US auto trade to a deficit of more than \$1.8 billion. Canada's deficit in auto parts trade with the US alone last year amounted to nearly \$2.5 billion. This is not just a temporary aberration. It is part of a fundamental shift in industrial activity between the two countries. We cannot be complacent, as so many seem to be, that economic recovery will restore the balance. It is clear that we must stop shying away from this growing problem and take positive action. In budget paper F, Ontario advocates a four-part action plan to revive the long-term health of the automobile industry.

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Ontario must continue to pursue a dynamic strategy for economic growth in the future, which involves improvement in the quality of life and careful preservation of our natural resources. Also, all of Ontario must participate in our development to the fullest extent possible. Later this session, we will be tabling a set of documents which advance an economic and social planning framework for the province as a whole as well as selected areas.

**Mr. Cassidy:** We've been waiting for 10 years for that.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** I would like to conclude this section of my budget statement



with this thought. The country faces massive economic challenges. I believe these challenges can be met and I have outlined a programme for doing just that. But to be successful, we must be determined and energetic in our creation of a national economic policy for Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I have set before you and the members a strong and constructive budget. It provides for non-inflationary growth and private sector expansion in Ontario by controlling the use of public resources. It injects new confidence to sustain the momentum of economic recovery and it continues the record of sound financial management by the government of Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: Oh, come on!

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The cornerstone of the government's fiscal programme is expenditure restraint. As I have already said, Ontario's spending for 1976-1977 will rise by only 10.4 per cent and we are resolved to stick to this firm limit. I estimate this control on spending, by itself, will generate a \$329-million improvement in our financial position.

Mr. S. Smith: Precisely the amount that the property tax will go up this year.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The tax measures I have outlined will improve Ontario's finances by a further \$380 million. As a result, cash requirements for 1976-1977 will amount to \$1.230 billion—down \$659 million from the 1975-1976 level.

It is imperative that governments reduce their borrowing as well as their spending. Governments cannot live on credit indefinitely any more than families can, nor will future generations be any more able to pay the bills than is the present generation. Moreover, stable growth of the economy depends on increased investment by big and little businesses alike. No business can finance its essential expansion if governments crowd the financial markets and take all the money.

The government of Ontario will not, I stress, require any public borrowing in 1976-1977.

Mr. Peterson: Tell us where you're going to get it and whose money it is.

Mr. Reid: You are going to rob the pension fund again.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: In conclusion, my budget is a declaration of confidence, confi-

dence in the dynamic economy of this province of opportunity, confidence in Ontario's workers, its farmers, its enterprises and its institutions, and confidence, sir, in the solid record of achievement of this government under William G. Davis.

Mr. Reid: They are clapping only because you're over.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The member for London North (Mr. Shore) should come and sit over here.

Ms. Bryden moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch: May we revert to bills, Mr. Speaker?

Agreed.

## ONTARIO LOAN ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to authorize the Raising of Money on the Credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Mr. Lewis: That was the worst budget ever.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the Minister of Housing please restrain himself?

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

## VENTURE INVESTMENT CORPORATIONS REGISTRATION ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Registration of Venture Investment Corporations, 1976.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

## CORPORATIONS TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Corporations Tax Act, 1972.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

RETAIL SALES TAX  
AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

ONTARIO GUARANTEED ANNUAL  
INCOME AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Ontario Guaranteed Annual Income Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

TOBACCO TAX  
AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Tobacco Tax Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

**Hon. Mr. Welch:** Mr. Speaker, on Thursday we will continue with the consideration of legislation as set out on the order paper. Although it's a bit early, in order to provide the members of the House with an opportunity to reflect upon the progressive budget introduced by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), I would move the adjournment of the House.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



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Ontario. Legislative Assembly

# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

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Thursday, April 8, 1976

Afternoon Session

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Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

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THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

## ESTIMATES

**Hon. Mr. Auld:** Mr. Speaker, I have a message from the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, signed by her own hand.

**Mr. Speaker:** By her own hand, Pauline M. McGibbon, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 13, 1977, and recommends them to the legislative assembly, Toronto, April 8, 1976.

Statements by the ministry.

## FUTURE GROWTH

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, there are two statements that are related today. Mine will be relatively brief and will be followed by a more comprehensive one by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough).

My colleague, the provincial Treasurer, will lay before the assembly today, planning and development strategies that are critical to Ontario's capacity to manage the growth that will take place in this province in the years ahead.

It would be naive for anyone to believe that this Legislature, this government or, for that matter, any government can ever hope to prevent growth either in an industrial or population sense. More to the point, it is not the view of this government that we should attempt to stop reasonable growth in this province.

It has been and remains our view that moderate, well-managed growth is not just of great value to Ontario, and to sustaining and improving the quality of life of its citizens; it is a necessity. Therefore, the statement being made by the Treasurer today will indicate the clear priorities of this government, and is intended to elicit an open and public discussion of the assumptions, directions and priorities on which the management of growth in Ontario should be based.

Clearly, non-elected planners do not have the mandate to make decisions for the people of Ontario. Only the government and Legislature have that mandate. In consideration of the various approaches to planning necessary to cope with urbanization and with increased pressure on the environment, open space and food-producing areas, it is critical and basic to Ontario's way of life that local levels of government, and concerned citizens at all levels, be afforded a real opportunity for participation and influence.

In this regard, it is interesting to contrast the various planning avenues available to the people of this province. One approach is that of concentrated central planning, in which a provincial government develops its own plan and implements it, without any particular concern for local or private concerns or without reservations. That approach, in our opinion, is not acceptable to the people of Ontario.

**Mr. Riddell:** You're taking a long time to get around to it.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** I am sorry, I didn't hear that.

**Mr. Nixon:** He said it took you a long time to get around to that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I will ignore the opportunity to reply in a way that might be misunderstood.

**Mr. Nixon:** Go ahead.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** It might even be provocative.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** As the Treasurer says, it might even be provocative. The one thing that the third party in this House doesn't understand is planning, whether it's in a political sense, a land-use sense or any other sense.

**Mr. Nixon:** Okay, boys, get ready.

**Mr. R. S. Smith:** We have been waiting seven years for the northeastern one.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** A contrasting approach, Mr. Speaker, is that of no real planning, and no effort at growth management, at the provincial level. It is an approach that gives rise to planning problems, while overlooking the local, regional or provincial authority necessary to resolve these problems. Concern about the disappearance of farm land, expressed concurrently with an attack on regional or provincial planning authorities, is typical of this type of planning attitude. That approach is, as well, not acceptable to the people of this province, simply because it does not provide for any overview or direction related to the broad public interest.

The planning perspective to which this government does subscribe places the provincial government in a co-ordinating role, assisting local and regional governments to achieve their own planning and growth management goals within broad outlines which are of overriding importance to the province as a whole.

Through various development incentives, housing programmes, planning instruments and programme alternatives available to the ministries of the government, much can be done to reduce overcrowding and to spread the accepted benefits of growth yet preserve the particular qualities of local and community life which are important to the well-being and self-respect of Ontarians.

There are some realities that our province and local municipalities can and must face.

According to our estimates, close to four million more people will swell Ontario's population during the next quarter century. However accurate that forecast, in terms of either population expansion and/or time span, it does indicate that we must expect significant growth and we must be prepared for it.

For example, in direct terms, this government cannot allow Toronto or Metropolitan Toronto or any other area of southern Ontario to be the sole beneficiary or, in some cases, perhaps not necessarily a beneficiary, of such increased growth and the economic activity it will generate.

On the other hand, this government cannot tolerate or allow the quality of life of present-day Toronto or any other part of Ontario to be the victim of untrammelled growth caused by new inflow either from other sectors of the province or from abroad.

This must be a basic element of our growth management programme.

**Mr. Cassidy:** It hasn't been up to now.

**Mr. Reid:** It sounds like the speech you gave when you introduced the Toronto-centred plan.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** Which has worked relatively well.

The increased development of the north, diversified development in the east, and the development of more efficient industrial and transportation centres throughout Ontario are, as well, of critical priority to the government. Managed development of this type will mean more jobs, more income and a higher quality of life for areas that aspire to this type of improvement.

The enlightened use of our natural resources, the development of strategies for careful use of mining and lumbering reserves, the provision of an adequate supply of recreational lands, the assurance of food supply through a continued increase in per acre productivity of our farmland, prudent management of energy resources, all of these are key elements of our programme that will serve generations of Ontarians in the future.

The continued importance of the private sectors in developing Ontario, at the commercial, industrial and economic level, is also critical to this government's view of Ontario's future.

Economic viability, in terms of importance to the livelihood of people of all areas of Ontario, is a basic planning concern for this government.

Mr. Speaker, what my colleague, the Treasurer, will be placing before the Legislature are some basic elements of a broad planning strategy for the province. Some are general while others relate to specific areas and regions. They are not, I emphasize, etched in stone. On the contrary, they are intended to offer general direction and to provoke constructive discussion and imaginative responses within the broad guidelines established.

**Mr. R. S. Smith:** So broad they wouldn't hurt anybody.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** At the same time, however, they indicate our firm commitment to effective provincial participation because provincial plans without province-wide commitment are of little use.

In their totality, these documents deserve the careful scrutiny of all parties in this Legislature. Toward that end, the government House leader will be consulting with the other House leaders to provide adequate time in this Legislature for members to offer their comments on these papers and to debate



the question of what approach to growth our province should adopt.

I have every faith that local governments, regional governments, and private citizens understand the crucial importance of an Ontario that grows in a moderate fashion, based upon concerns for economic well-being, local quality of life and equality of opportunity.

I have every faith, as well, that whether it involves Ontario gaining a greater say in immigration policy, or securing more co-ordination with the federal government with respect to our planning goals, this government can expect fair-minded advice and comment from the other parties in this Legislature.

Now whether my good faith turns out to be justified or not, this government will continue to work with other levels of government in Ontario and with all other interests in this province to ensure for Ontarians the right to control and manage their own future to ensure the quality of life for future generations and, above all, preserve for the future the very best of life in Ontario today.

## FUTURE GROWTH

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Today, I am tabling a document entitled "Ontario's Future: Trends and Options," which is a statement by the government of Ontario on provincial and regional development strategy.

[2:15]

In addition, I am tabling eight reports, all of which relate to the pattern of future life in Ontario. I recommend all of these reports to the attention of hon. members. The titles of the reports are as follows: Ontario's Future: Trends and Options; Ontario's Changing Population, volumes 1 and 2; Northeastern Ontario Development Strategy; and an Appendix: Durham Subregion Strategy, Renfrew Subregion Strategy, The Northumberland Area Task Force Report, The Simcoe-Georgian Area Task Force Report, Programme Statement on the Toronto-Centred Region and A Strategy for Ontario Farmland.

**Mr. Lewis:** Where is that document?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Trends gradually become evident in any changing society. The direction of the trends can change the options that are available and, obviously, must influence the responses.

The design of appropriate responses is what planning is all about. Planning is not undertaken for the edification of planners or of municipal or provincial governments; it is done to improve the circumstances of the people.

**Mrs. Campbell:** After 33 years.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Disraeli, that great British Tory Prime Minister, defined our approach to planning in Ontario when, a century ago, he said: "I repeat . . . that all power is a trust—that we are accountable for its exercise—that from the people and for the people, all springs and all must exist."

Planning, then, demonstrably must be for the people. It may be less obvious but it is equally true that it must be from the people.

**Mr. Good:** You made it for politicians.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Plans for the province—the designing of the personal lives of people—cannot be imposed by government. Equally, however, it will not result from the unplanned accumulation of unrelated decisions that are not influenced by one another. Successful planning is a joint undertaking of government and the people.

Planning is not a new concept in this province. Notwithstanding the importance of earlier initiatives, the most important document to that date was the white paper, *Design for Development*, released for public consideration by the then Premier, the Hon. John Robarts, in 1966.

This white paper was a response to the need for provincial government guidance in our changing and increasingly urban society. That report made explicit that the government must guide regional land use and economic development and ensure that all development in the province was correlated so that the interests of all would be served.

It recognized that government expenditures would have to be co-ordinated with provincial and regional planning objectives. It explicitly stated that the government proposed to attempt to reduce regional economic inequalities through the development of the special economic potential of each region. It challenged the pre-eminent importance attributed to exclusively economic considerations and argued the equal importance of social and environmental concerns. It established basic planning guidelines.

It noted the need to control random urban development in rural areas; it noted that unique natural features belong equally to all the people; and it noted the developing transportation needs in the Toronto region.

This last initiative led to the major provincial-municipal study that produced the important planning document entitled *Design for Development: The Toronto-Centred Region*.

This document, which has become known as the TCR, has become a fundamental part



of the planning strategy in Ontario. It included such principles as the confining of growth first to a broad belt along the shore of Lake Ontario from Hamilton to Oshawa, the structuring of this belt into a system of identifiable communities, the maintenance of an extensive area to the north as largely a rural and recreational green belt, and the encouragement of the growth of selected areas beyond this green belt and outside commuting distance.

The objective of the TCR was to relieve excessive development pressure on the main urban area along the shore of Lake Ontario. These planning principles have been applied to other parts of the province and have been elaborated in other programmes and reports. All have in common three broad themes:

Regional economic disparities must be reduced and the social and economic development of all of Ontario's major regions must be encouraged; urban growth must be managed; the protection of areas and natural features of unique importance must be viewed as a provincial responsibility.

We are not, sir, proposing any new plan today or any fundamental change in the themes, objectives or policies. The objectives and policies—

**Mr. Cassidy:** Same old one, eh?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** —of Design for Development, 1966, are as valid today as they were when they were first enunciated.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Far from realization.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** At the same time, 10 years have passed and change continues. It is only prudent to pause and take stock and, as necessary, to refine and expand those earlier guidelines and objectives.

Over the past generation there have been great changes in Ontario. Housing developments, apartment complexes, shopping centres and industrial plants have sprung up. Networks of freeways and public transportation services were needed and were provided. Areas that were remote and rural are now the home of large populations employed in local industries. Immigration has increased population, and has broadened and changed the character of our people and made it more cosmopolitan.

Growth is not always good, but growth we shall have in Ontario because that is the nature of our developing economy. Our goal should be the proper management of that growth so it meets our needs and desires.

Like growth, change is not exclusively positive. The growing urban population has increased the pressure on neighbouring rural areas and has generated other concerns that called for an expanded policy response.

It is the preference of a large proportion of our citizens to live within the major cities located in a relatively small part of the total area of the province. This collective choice of the citizens of the province places intense pressure on important open land. This pressure is not limited to the densely urbanized southwestern part of the province. Even in the eastern and northern regions, where population as a proportion of the provincial total is declining, there is an increase in the proportion of the regional population living in the major cities. Let me cite some statistics.

In 1951, 36 per cent of the total provincial population was concentrated in the complex along Lake Ontario, through Hamilton-Toronto-Oshawa. By 1971 this proportion had increased to 43 per cent.

**Mr. Good:** Because of lack of planning on your part. How can you keep them away?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** In the same interval the population of Thunder Bay grew from 44 per cent to 50 per cent of the northwestern region; the population of Ottawa grew from 32 per cent to 42 per cent of the eastern region.

A recent phenomenon has been the preference of many city people for a home in the rural areas, a fact that often has a negative component from the perspective of farm people, but the overriding trend is the relative growth of city populations. In 1951, 73 per cent of the people of Ontario lived in towns and cities. By 1971 the proportion had increased to 82 per cent.

**Mr. Good:** We have been complaining about it for 10 years.

**Mrs. Campbell:** They're slow learners.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The trend in the direction of urban living must be expected to continue, although the rate may alter.

We expect total population in Ontario to reach approximately 10 million in 1986 and to approach 12 million by the year 2000, which implies—

**Mr. Eakins:** That's an old speech, Darcy.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** —a slower rate of growth than that of the recent past. This, coupled with public policy initiatives, may slow the rate of growth of the cities, but urbanization is a world-wide phenomenon and



it reflects the demonstrated preferences of people. Provincial planning that assumed a significant short-term change in the public attitude in this context would be unrealistic.

It is our expectation that Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, Kitchener-Waterloo, London and Windsor, which now collectively contain just over 60 per cent of the population of the province, will contain nearly 80 per cent by the year 2000.

The major employment opportunities will be in the heavily populated areas. The major increase in employment opportunities will be in business, financial, social and government services. Jobs in manufacturing will increase, but not as rapidly as in the service sector; and although production in agriculture, resource extraction and processing will increase, the high level of productivity in these sectors will mean that a proportional increase in the number of jobs cannot be expected.

The nature of the prospective employment opportunities will not tend to disperse population away from the growing urban centres. The major trends in our province are clearly set. They include: Increased urbanization; an increased proportion of the population in the heavily urbanized southwestern part of the province; increased pressure on open space, the environment and energy supplies. Total population will continue to increase, though at a somewhat reduced rate. Opportunities will expand and so will the need for future planning and management.

There is no reason to suppose that the people of Ontario want their future tailor-made by their government. It might be technically feasible to design the perfect plan and fit people into it, but it is certainly not a practical option. The fact is that government does not have and should not have a free hand in dealing with people's lives and plans. The existing pattern of urban development, which is nothing other than the implicit statement by individual people as to where they want to live, is nearly as intractable as the distribution of natural and physical resources, nor will the economic distribution and structure easily or painlessly shift from its traditional pattern.

If the people of Ontario are to enjoy democratic freedom, and no one would propose otherwise, planning must accommodate the free choices of the people who live here and who own this province. The role of government is to reinforce the chosen lifestyle. An important part of our lifestyle is to make our own choices, without arbitrary or dictatorial intervention by that very government.

Planning, then, is constrained on both sides by the fact that it must not be too much or too little. It must not transgress the right of a free people to choose the style of their own life; at the same time, it must direct and guide development to the extent required to ensure the optimum social, economic and physical environment. Failure to plan and to achieve this optimum may result in the preferred choices of many citizens simply becoming unattainable.

Within the constraints of the options that are open to government, I propose to restate and expand our planning objectives.

One constraint that I have not mentioned, and that must not be overlooked, is the financial constraint now applied to all areas of government. Not to put too fine an edge on it, there may be useful development opportunities that, at least at this time, we will not be able to afford. We still must prepare the plans and, within the constraints, put priority on those items which will assist in the achievement of our goals.

A primary objective will continue to be the reduction of persistent disparity in income and the access to services of the different regions in Ontario. We will seek to attain an even distribution of growth across the province. In many parts of the province this is made difficult because of the narrow local economic base. Policy will be directed toward attaining optimum local potential through the development of local resources and the involvement of local people.

We will reinforce our effort to conserve and protect our natural resources and will ensure that these resources are managed in the interests of all the people. We will continue to protect the rural and forest environment.

We will maintain the healthy and attractive urban communities that are universally recognized as a distinctive hallmark of Ontario. We will encourage the distribution of population growth, and so of urban development. We will ensure that the people of the province are all served by the best possible urban system. We will attempt to accomplish this purpose in a manner that avoids excessively rapid growth in major cities and will do so without destroying private businesses or ignoring the preferences and choices of the citizens.

We will be looking to the future of our province in the general context of our restated development strategy. As we progress, changes will be adopted that will reflect the expressed needs of the people to be served



by provincial and local development initiatives of whatever kind.

The achievement of policy objectives will be furthered through the use of two kinds of instruments.

The first includes the programmes and the expenditures of the government itself. Such government operational programmes as housing, services, industrial parks and the location of government functions will be co-ordinated with provincial and regional planning objectives.

We have established a regional priority budget whereby ministries can place special emphasis on activities of particular importance in helping to achieve the development potential of the economic regions.

The existence of restructured governments has been an essential aspect of the whole process of coherent development planning. Regional governments, particularly, are doing effective planning for their areas and are working with the province in the furthering of our mutual economic development objectives, something that was always a major purpose of regional government.

[2:30]

This relates, then, directly to the second instrument, which is the planning policies of the regional, county and local municipalities. Consistency with provincial policies must obviously be encouraged, but this does not imply dictating municipal planning. The clear definition of provincial objectives has been made to coincide with the withdrawal of the province in terms of the detailed overviewing of municipal plans. It persists, to a greater degree, in those cases where province-wide interests are involved or where it is necessary to ensure that the plans and programmes of both levels of government are consistent.

Policies and programmes can be divided conveniently into three areas: economic planning, rural and resource planning, and urban and demographic planning. I propose to initially discuss them under those three headings.

The basic objectives of economic planning will be to reduce income inequalities through the stimulation of economic growth in slower-growth parts of the province, especially in eastern and northern Ontario. The key principle will be to build upon the resources native to the area in question. Rather than attempt to import foot-loose enterprises that lack local roots, experience and acceptance, we will encourage the diversification and expansion of the existing base.

We will, in other words, increasingly adopt a grassroots strategy. We will encourage resource-processing industries to locate near to the resources, rather than near to the markets, particularly in the case of forest and farm-related enterprises. Subject always to the financial constraints to which I made earlier reference, we will provide assistance for the location of new industries where a long-term resultant benefit to the community can be expected.

Natural resources and the natural environment are of central and growing importance and their depletion or deterioration is not to be tolerated. Environmental quality must be enhanced and resources properly managed in the interests of both current and future populations. This implies that we must correctly define what we have in terms of landscape, natural resource components and unique features. We must ensure that the highest and best use is made of these public assets through the definition and redefinition of environmental management, economic development and related social concerns.

Rural and resource policies relating to agriculture, recreation and tourism, forestry, mining and aggregate extraction, and fish and wildlife, will be refined and policy amendments will be adopted as our work proceeds. Today, I would like to comment particularly on agriculture and more briefly on some aspects of recreation.

No one doubts the key importance of food production. In Ontario we will continue to maintain a permanent, secure and economically viable agricultural industry as a source of food and, further, as a source of employment and livelihood for people, and as the basis of the rural community and the rural way of life.

To the extent possible, we should in future, as we have in the past, protect the integrity of the use of fertile land for food production.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** There is a strong base of agriculture and agricultural lands in this province and although, as in any other expanding community there is a greater use of fertile land for purposes other than food production than any would prefer, Ontario is now and will continue to be an important food-producing area with a valuable and protected base of fertile food-producing land.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Population is up and land is down.



**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** An intensified preferred-use approach to prime agricultural lands will be applied. This policy will be matched by complementary policies and programmes to ensure the economic viability and stability of the agricultural sector, to ensure the improved use of good farmland that is now held idle or in parcels that are too small to be operated economically, and to reduce the social, financial and environmental stresses to which urbanization exposes farming and the farming community.

We cannot, however, insulate these policies and programmes from the broad needs of the people of the province. Policies and programmes for the agricultural and rural communities must support regional planning objectives. They must be closely meshed with policies and programmes relating to other kinds of development and land use affecting the rural environment. And they must be tailored to the specific circumstances and needs of the different parts of the province.

The impression has been planted in the minds of the public that within a generation farmland will be gone and food production in this province will have virtually disappeared; that industrial plants, residences and concrete will blanket the fertile portions of the province. That simply isn't true.

Interjections.

**Mr. Bain:** It will be true if your government is around.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The fact is that in Ontario—and it is typical in other dynamic industrial communities—increases in population will be accommodated in an average of 40 persons per gross acre, which is 25,500 per square mile. We project that there will be an increase in Ontario's population of approximately four million by 2001, requiring for housing a grand total area of about 155 square miles. Some might argue that an average density of 40 persons per acre is unrealistically high. However, even if this density were to be cut in half, to 20 persons per gross acre, this still only requires a grand total of about 310 square miles for housing.

Applying the accepted requirements of the additional industry, roads and other demands on land that will result from this population increase, the best estimate is that the land requirement for the projected increase in population in Ontario to 2001 will be between 400 and 580 square miles.

In this province, the total of class I, II and III farm land is 25,500 square miles. If we include all soil that has a capability for

agriculture, the total is nearly 83,000 square miles.

**Mr. Lewis:** As specious a piece of writing as I've ever encountered.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** We all regret that any land has to be diverted from food production, but homes and industries must locate, and some 400 or 500 square miles out of the total production acreage in Ontario is well short of destroying our food-producing capability. Even that assumes that all land used for essentially urban purposes will be suitable for agriculture and so overstates the loss of farm land.

**Mr. Wildman:** Are you going to force developers and industries to build on low-quality land?

**Mr. Lewis:** This is the most ridiculous statement you've made in some time.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order. I think fewer interjections would be better at this time.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. minister will continue.

**An hon. member:** Mathematically, it's very simple.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** In order to assure that misinformation is corrected, and to reassure the people of Ontario of the future prospects of food production in the province, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is continuing to examine the whole question of present and prospective use of productive land, as well as related questions, and will be making periodic reports and recommendations. A progress report by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is included in the material I have tabled today.

**Mr. Lewis:** By Hedlin Menzies and not by the government.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Why don't you grow up and find out?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Recreational land is also important, because recreation and leisure account for an important part of the time of the people of the province, as well as our physical and mental health. The Ministry of Industry and Tourism is preparing plans and programmes dealing with the natural and recreational resources of the province.

The Ontario government has done a good job of providing public open space and we want to remove impediments, real or imagined, to the further development of private open space. There are literally thousands of locations suitable for cottages, for chalets, and for weekend retreats from city living. The government will encourage private and commercial developments, except where they might damage the environment or impinge on agricultural land.

There is and will continue to be a place for private and commercial recreational use and development, even in such locations as the Niagara Escarpment. It will be the objective of the government to maintain a balance between public and private involvement in, and use of, our provincial recreational resources.

Constrained only by what is possible and what will not contradict the choices and preferences of citizens, we shall attempt to gradually shift some population growth away from our major cities. The fact that the province's urban system is strongly focused on Toronto tends to encourage further concentration in the Toronto area and so perpetuate economic inequalities and disparities in the delivery of services.

Within central Ontario, the Toronto-centred region policy is reaffirmed but alternative ways of deflecting a certain amount of growth from the Toronto area will continue to be examined. However, we must of necessity have a concern as to how rapidly such change will be accepted or can be adapted to by our people, our business enterprises and government.

Growth will be encouraged in other areas. In three regions, subject to further examination and further discussion with local governments, London and Thunder Bay and the two eastern Ontario cities of Ottawa and Kingston may be encouraged to develop as regional centres. In northeastern Ontario there are now four main centres—Sudbury, Timmins, North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. Because of the economic and geographic circumstances of the region, a single regional centre may not be appropriate and, though Sudbury may come to assume a regional city role, it is too early to make a commitment to this as a policy.

The designation of places or areas for special forms of assistance does not imply an effort to restrain development elsewhere through the reduction of normal provincial programmes. It will, however, continue to be the policy of the government to employ its

programmes of housing, industrial development and transportation to support its urban and demographic policies and preferences.

The location of government offices can play a role in fostering or retarding urban expansion. The government is on record that no further major expansion will be permitted in the Queen's Park area. The move by the Ministry of Correctional Services to Scarborough is a direct consequence of this commitment.

**Mr. Foulds:** That is what decentralization means?

**Mr. Cassidy:** They jump for joy in eastern Ontario when you do that.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** To take this a step further, the Premier (Mr. Davis) has asked the Management Board of Cabinet for a report on the feasibility of moving offices outside of Metro Toronto entirely and, perhaps, for a start, to the Oshawa/Whitby area.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Yes, Whitby, Mississauga.

**Mr. Nixon:** Are you going to move Agriculture from Bloor St.?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** A number of new principles, some of which are not specific to demographic planning will, none the less, have some impact on the location of people. These principles include basing economic growth on local resources and local potentials; the use of policy/programme packages devised specifically for each resource/environment area; the preferred-use system; the matching of agricultural support programmes to the preservation of agricultural land; the evolution of a pragmatic system of regional cities; the redirection of urban growth where and when we can, and the use of major provincial—

**Mr. Lewis:** Where and when you can!

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** —programmes to achieve urban and economic development and demographic objectives.

**Mr. Lewis:** This is fatuous malarkey.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Guidelines and objectives must be matched by a process that makes things happen.

The government is already moving in a number of ways.

**Mr. Lewis:** Why are you reading this; you, an intelligent man?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.



**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** An important aspect of the Toronto-Centred Region, for example, involves the stimulation of growth to the east of Metropolitan Toronto.

**Mr. Good:** It hasn't happened.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** As discussed in the Durham Subregion Strategy report, the government will assist the regional municipality of Durham to service 2,300 acres of industrial land and 6,400 acres of residential land by 1986, while still not restricting the access of the rest of the region to improve services and opportunities.

Among other programmes, the government will encourage the development and growth of economic activities suitable for expansion in the Oshawa area. This will include the diversification of transportation-related industry; the development of other kinds of manufacturing; and the stimulation of service activities, including finance, insurance, real estate, business services and public administration.

In the eastern part of the parkway belt, planning is proceeding in co-operation with the region of Durham. Hearings will begin on May 2 on the draft plan for the western portion of the parkway belt. Total land acquisition to the end of this fiscal year, for all purposes in the parkway belt, will cost about \$100 million.

The government has announced its intention of proceeding with the development of the new town of North Pickering. It is estimated that by the end of the century the population will be some 70,000 to 90,000 people.

**Mr. Lewis:** I should hope so. You have spent \$200 million—\$201 million, as a matter of fact.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** We are determined to proceed, especially with the new housing components of North Pickering. We will use all available resources. One of the options that is being discussed is an expanded role for the private sector.

The expansion of growth to the east of Metro is expected to reduce growth pressures to the north. Further, as I mentioned earlier, estimates of the rate of increase in population in Ontario are down, and other second-tier urban developments contemplated in the TCR may not be necessary until well into the next century.

The population of the southern part of the York region, that which is serviced by the central York servicing scheme, will probably not exceed the capacity of that system in this century. That would imply a total population of up to 450,000. It is estimated that in the

rest of the York region the population will grow to about 100,000.

[2:45]

Another important objective of the TCR is to ease the pressure in the Toronto area through encouraging development beyond commuting range in Simcoe and Northumberland counties. In this context I have tabled today the reports prepared by two task forces that grew out of the TCR—groups made up of politicians and technical people from the municipalities concerned. The government accepts in principle the findings of both reports and will undertake a number of the recommended measures.

Northumberland county will be included in eastern Ontario for the purpose of the Ontario business incentives and industrial parks programmes. A doubling of the population is possible. The population of Simcoe county is expected to grow to 500,000 from the present 190,000, primarily in the principal urban areas of Barrie, Orillia, Midland and Collingwood. We hope that in both counties, county planning will play a role. The population increase will be tied to the creation of employment opportunities.

**Mr. Nixon:** That is not what the Toronto-centred region plan said.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** In Haldimand-Norfolk a provincial-municipal task force will shortly complete a planning strategy, designed to guide the growth in the region that will result from large-scale industrial development. Planning for the new town of Townsend has started, although the timing of developments may influence the rate of progress.

The preparation of a plan for the Niagara Escarpment is proceeding under the direction of the Escarpment Commission. Responsibility for this commission is being transferred from the Treasurer to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, since this is an area where the co-ordination of the activities of several ministries is necessary on a continuing basis.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That is a licence to blunder.

**Mr. Nixon:** Oh, he is back in trouble again. The Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine) shouldn't let him deal this on to him.

**Mr. S. Smith:** There goes one retirement.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** I previously referred to the need for a periodic review and assessment of the Toronto-centred region. In the review of the TCR we shall broaden the area of inquiry to include neighbouring areas

that are part of central Ontario, including Niagara, Waterloo, Peterborough and Victoria. The government is well aware of the continuing need for constantly improved co-ordination of planning at the provincial, Metro and regional and local levels in the Toronto-centred region. This, however may be significantly influenced by the report of the Robarts commission. Formal action will await the delivery of that commission's report.

The preparation of a draft planning strategy for northeastern Ontario is now complete and is being released today for public discussion and input, and for review by the northeastern Ontario Municipal Advisory Committee. Key recommendations relate to the resource base of the region. The report advocates stimulation of economic growth with initial priority given to the four main urban centres of the northeast. It advocates improvements in social services and amenities and some decentralization and expanded local participation in decision-making.

A provincial strategy was developed for northwestern Ontario five years ago and it, like TCR, is under review. The report growing from this review and recommendations for any necessary changes in strategy will be released before mid-summer.

A strategy for eastern Ontario is partly developed and work is continuing. This report will be completed and available for comment before the end of the year.

**Mr. Laughren:** It should recommend a new Minister of Natural Resources.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The Ontario government undertook the preparation of a development strategy for Renfrew county prior to the completion of the eastern Ontario regional strategy. The proposals for Renfrew county are consistent with the regional approach that is now being developed. These proposals include the designation of the city of Pembroke—

**Mr. Cassidy:** Which we have been waiting for for six years.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** —as the major growth point in the county and the establishment of an industrial park in the area, as well as developments at Renfrew and Arnprior. The government will encourage the development of industries for the processing of forest products and magnesium as well as metal processing and fabricating industries. We will seek an agreement with the federal government jointly to pursue these and other objectives. This will include long-term resource development and the creation of a major historical

tourist attraction based on the history of the lumber and forest industries.

A great deal of progress has been made and is being made in the direction of the achievement of the planning objectives of government.

**Mr. Roy:** Are you going to call it Maple Mountain?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Design for Development, 1972, announced a number of organizational changes in the regional development programme, including the consolidation of the previous 10 economic regions into five provincial planning regions. The Planning Act is being reviewed. The Niagara Escarpment Commission has been established and is preparing a comprehensive plan for the escarpment.

The adoption of the Toronto-centred region concept as the policy of the government was followed by a number of major actions. They included the proposal of the new town of North Pickering, the publication of the parkway belt west plan, the studies and reports of the two task forces set up to report on the Simcoe-Georgian and Northumberland regions.

The central Ontario lakeshore urban complex task force, made up of provincial civil servants and planners from the six regional municipalities in the inner part of the Toronto-centred region, has recommended further measures.

In Haldimand-Norfolk we are, with the county, proceeding with development planning. The Townsend site has been purchased. We have accumulated land at Cayuga which, though it may not be needed in the immediate future, is an important asset that will contribute to the orderly development of the region.

**Mr. Roy:** That's not what Henderson said.

**Mr. Nixon:** Your predecessor just had \$20 million lying around.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** We have accumulated an important parcel of land at Edwardsburgh, near Brockville. This site is suitable for major industry; industrial location in this area will, concurrently, strengthen the economy of eastern Ontario and reduce the potential pressures on the more densely populated urban areas in the province.

**Mr. Cassidy:** That's not what they think up in eastern Ontario.

**Mr. Nixon:** You should be embarrassed.



**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Large-scale planning is also being undertaken by the various ministries of the government. I won't do more than give a few examples. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications, for example, is moving towards all-mode transportation systems planning—

**Mr. Nixon:** Except floating on air.

**Mr. Lewis:** Say that again. Let that roll off your tongue again.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The Ministry of Natural Resources is preparing a strategic land-use plan. The Ministry of Industry and Tourism, with other ministries, is carrying out its comprehensive tourism and outdoor recreational planning study.

**Mr. Roy:** Is Krauss-Maffei in there some place?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** A food lands planning group has been established within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food; and the Ministry of the Environment is engaged in river basin planning.

**Mr. Roy:** Is there room for Krauss-Maffei over there?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** The fact that ministries are grouped into policy fields facilitates the co-ordination of their planning and programmes. This is important because, if progress is to continue, there must be co-ordination of objectives and programmes in all ministries and at all levels of government—including the municipalities and the federal government—in relation to ultimate policy goals.

It must, however, be made quite clear that the prime responsibility for development strategies rests at the provincial and municipal levels of government. But the planning will prove irrelevant if it is simply a government exercise.

**Mr. Roy:** You have a lot of experience in that.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** It must reflect the choices and preferences of the people. There must be planning at the provincial and at the municipal level and co-operative planning between the province and the municipalities. The planning continuum must extend from the municipalities, through the provincial government and include the government of Canada.

The municipalities and the province must initiate plans. All ministries of the govern-

ment plan within their own areas and, where these plans involve broad interests, the policy field committees of cabinet play a vital role in the co-ordination of related undertakings. Of none is this more true than the resource development policy field.

This co-ordination is absolutely necessary. Good planning is not a luxury. It is central to the achievement of the best use of limited resources.

Effective planning is inextricably involved in the proper management of the affairs of the public on behalf of the public. It is regarded by the government as a central responsibility, fundamental to the protection and improvement of the quality of life that we in Ontario have come to take for granted.

**Mr. Nixon:** You should have tabled that statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations would like to speak.

#### ACTION AGAINST VIC TANNY

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** I rise to advise the House that extensive investigation by my ministry has resulted today in a proposal for a cease-and-desist order against all Vic Tanny health clubs in Ontario and their directors. The order states that false, misleading and deceptive consumer representations, including misleading advertising, the "bait-and-switch" technique and high-pressure sales tactics, were used to persuade consumers to sign long-term contracts.

**Mr. Nixon:** Going to send back their donation, Bill?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** The order becomes effective in 15 days unless Vic Tanny either appeals to the Commercial Registration Appeals Tribunal or signs an assurance of voluntary compliance. My ministry usually insists that if a company complies voluntarily, it must ensure that complaints are taken care of to the satisfaction of consumers involved.

Vic Tanny advertisements had offered "summer special, \$5, one month, mini-memberships" for a limited time. Only 100 members were to be enrolled under this offer at each location. Our order specifies that this was only bait to attract new members who were then switched to longer contracts. This bait-and-switch technique was very well defined by the US Federal Trade Commission, which had the following to say, and I quote:

"Bait advertising is an alluring but insincere offer to sell a product or service which the advertiser in truth does not intend or want to sell."

**Mr. S. Smith:** Sounds like your last campaign.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** We have here a classic case to fit that definition.

In addition, the Vic Tanny ad was misleading because the so-called limited time offer had no specific time limit and more than 100 members were signed up at various locations.

Further, the ads led consumers in Toronto to believe that squash courts were available in some locations when, in fact, the nearest club offering squash facilities is in London, Ont., more than 100 miles away.

**An hon. member:** How about tennis courts?

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** The order also states that the health clubs increased and decreased prices charged for various membership plans without full disclosure to consumers. Conviction under the Act can result in fines of up to \$25,000 for a company. A director may be fined up to \$2,000, imprisoned for one year, or both.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to creating and maintaining an equitable balance in the marketplace between business and consumer interests. We believe it's actions such as this which will enable us to achieve our goals.

**Mr. Lewis:** You will have to switch to your local "Y".

## ROADS CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Ministry of Transportation and Communications roads construction programme for 1976-1977.

This fiscal year, we are planning to spend an estimated \$205.6 million on road construction. This figure includes new work on a total of 659 miles of the provincial highway system, with most of it on two-lane highways.

**Mr. Lewis:** Between Milton and Peel.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Construction work will, as in the past, be equitably distributed throughout the province.

**Mr. Reid:** Oh, come on, how can you say that with a straight face?

**Mr. Nixon:** They are going to pave Highway 10 again for the summer.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Though our total roads budget is down this year—in keeping with the Ontario government's policy of fiscal constraint—my ministry has no intention of allowing Ontario's excellent road system to deteriorate.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please, order. The hon. minister has the floor.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Thus, while our main emphasis, Mr. Speaker, will be on the maintenance of our highway system at its current high standard, we shall also give priority to the most urgent capital construction projects on a needs basis.

## POINT OF PRIVILEGE

**Mr. Philip:** I rise on a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker.

In consideration of the remarks made by the member for Hamilton East (Mr. MacKenzie) concerning safety in the gallery, and in consideration of the fact that there are residents of the riding of Etobicoke in the public gallery today, can you bring us up to date on the investigation of safety conditions in the gallery?

**Mr. Reid:** That was opportunistic.

**An hon. member:** That's grandstanding.

**Mr. Speaker:** I just wish to report we are keeping a very close eye on it, but the report is not quite ready yet. It's quite an extensive report and you will see what it is about shortly.

**Mr. Ruston:** It will probably be expensive too.

**Mr. Speaker:** Oral questions.

## PRESERVATION OF FARMLAND

**Mr. Lewis:** A question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food if I may, Mr. Speaker: How does the minister reconcile this strategy for Ontario farmland tabled today—the rewrite of the Hedlin Menzies document at \$250 a page—with the document which came from within his own ministry indicating that agricultural land was going out of production so quickly it could no longer be kept track of, and the absence of a policy to deal with it?



**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, the document that was tabled today is the final document. Members did not see the final document the other day. There are 10 points on agricultural—

**Mr. Mackenzie:** You'll have to rewrite it today.

**Hon. W. Newman:** —use in the Province of Ontario in the strategy that we have planned. We have outlined it there.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Answer the question.

**Hon. W. Newman:** I am going to answer the question, but I want to make sure that the members understand it.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

[3:00]

**Hon. W. Newman:** Today, Mr. Speaker, some controversy has arisen over the wording in the most recent ARDA report released by my ministry last October, and the contentious words were, I believe: "Land is being converted from agricultural land to other uses so quickly that keeping an accurate figure of the land in agriculture is an almost impossible task." As far as I am concerned, this wording is misleading because it implies that land being converted from agriculture to other uses is irreversible, and this is not true.

**Mr. Cassidy:** This is new land, yes.

**Hon. W. Newman:** No. The fact is that most of the land not now in active farm production can be returned to food land when it is economically viable. Also in this report, if members have read it—

**Mr. Lewis:** Yes.

**Mr. Wildman:** Are you going to cut down all the poplar bush?

**Hon. W. Newman:** —it classifies 53 million acres of Ontario land according to its capability for agricultural use. Not all of this is available because it is in other uses now, but it outlines 53 million acres. Indeed, earlier today on radio, one of the authors of the ARDA report, Professor Doug Hoffman of the University of Guelph said that the famous 26-acres-per-hour figure is misleading.

**Mr. Bain:** Is that after or before?

**Hon. W. Newman:** The professor himself agreed with my earlier statement that since

1971 farm land has gone back into production at the rate of seven acres per hour.

**Mr. MacDonald:** It is only six.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Hoffman also said that the province needs a long-term strategy to preserve agricultural land, and I heard him.

**Mr. Renwick:** Don't shout at us, talk quietly.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Well, members opposite could keep their voices down too sometimes.

The government proposal is for policies which, taken together, will preserve foodland for food production in the future. I see no contravention in the policy that we have tabled today and I have explained that. Even the fellow who made the statement agrees with me.

**Mr. Lewis:** It all depends whether the minister was listening or not. May I ask a supplementary? Does he also agree with Dr. Hoffman's assertion that nothing the government has done, by way of what it has tabled today or by past policy, indicates any legislative action to preserve the agricultural land which continues to go out of production?

**Hon. W. Newman:** We have the Planning Act. Every official plan and every zoning bylaw has to come before the Ministry of Housing, and we do comment on that. As I said before concerning the food lands development branch, on the Niagara region to date—

**Mr. Lewis:** Niagara region?

**Hon. W. Newman:** —we have had a lot of discussions with the region regarding the preservation of that special land; we have had excellent co-operation with them in preserving this land in the official plan.

**Mr. Swart:** Now 80 per cent of all Niagara development is taking place on the prime land.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Nixon:** There continues to be substantial confusion as to what is meant by the land that is going out of production. The minister has indicated much of it can be returned, although experts question this.

**Mr. Kennedy:** Not necessarily so.

**Mr. Nixon:** Oh, yes, experts in the ministry and at the University of Guelph have questioned it. They say if it is subdivided into 10-acre lots it will never be able to return to

production, and the minister is aware of that. I believe he subdivided land like that himself. Would the minister not agree? And in response to the Premier's (Mr. Davis) comment perhaps he should give some consideration, since the Premier said he is expecting a constructive discussion on this difficult problem from all sides of the Legislature that we should have a select committee of the Legislature review the matter over the summer months so that we can go out into the areas which are more directly concerned and get submissions from those people who seem to be opposing each other in their views at the present time? Why would this not be a constructive way to come to at least a consensus in this important matter?

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, in answer to the question, first and foremost, I would like you to know that I am a farmer.

**Mr. Peterson:** You are a farmer, out, standing in your field.

Interjections.

**Hon. W. Newman:** And do you know something, Mr. Speaker? I am very proud of it too. Certainly I would just like to make it very clear to the former leader of the official opposition that I am not a subdivider. I have never subdivided.

**Mr. Nixon:** No, you sold your farm.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Well, I sold a farm; so I sold a farm one time. What's wrong with that? Is there something wrong with that?

**Mr. Nixon:** Nothing is the matter with that but it is an indication of the problems that all farmers face.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Nixon:** In these circumstances they can't make any money.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** There have been so many interjections, does the hon. minister remember the question he has to answer?

**Hon. W. Newman:** We outlined our programme today on a strategy for preserving agricultural land. Because of all the interjections from the hon. members opposite, if the member has a further question I would be glad to try to answer it because I lost him part-way through.

**Mr. Speaker:** A brief question, please.

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, as a matter of clarification, if you'll permit, the crux of the

question is, with all those things being considered and with at least a partial government position before us, why could we not have a select committee of the House—perhaps using that orange book, which we haven't had a chance to look at yet, as a basis of our review—sit during the summer months so that we can come to some conclusion on this matter?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Why don't you have a look at it first? Just read it.

**Mr. Nixon:** Well I'll tell you, since the Treasurer is interjecting—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question has been asked.

**Mr. Nixon:** —he says the loss of the 580 square miles is not significant and we say it is.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. Order, please.

We're wasting valuable time here from a proper question period. Does the hon. minister have a brief answer to that supplementary?

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, I'll be glad to answer the question. We happen to believe in the democratic process on this side of the House—

**Mr. Nixon:** And that means you are in the minority, that more people are against you than for you.

**Hon. W. Newman:** —and I would refer to the Lambton-Sarnia task force which looked at the agricultural needs as well as the residential needs in that area.

**Mr. Nixon:** Oh yes, let the bureaucrats do it, that's democracy.

**Hon. W. Newman:** If the member has been at those meetings last week, when they had some very full discussions on how they were going to preserve the agricultural land and put the residential land where it should go, he would know that the municipal people who are involved, as well as the government people who were involved, are very sincerely trying to do a good job there and are doing an excellent job.

**Mr. Nixon:** So are we all.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Are you for central control at the provincial level?

**Mr. Nixon:** No, we are not.



**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Nixon:** You are going to let them go at that?

**Mr. MacDonald:** In the minister's rationalization of the reverse trend from the loss of 26 acres, what explanation has the minister got that in the Roger Schwass draft 1 he said that agricultural land was coming back at the rate of 7.8 acres an hour, but in the minister's revision of it it's now 6.6? The minister has lost 1.2 acres in two weeks.

**An hon. member:** That's pretty bad.

**Hon. Mr. Davis:** You are becoming paranoid over there.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Are the minister's figures as shifting as that?

**Mr. Nixon:** Oh, yes.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that that question was asked. As I said before, I and my staff did the final draft and we made sure we had the correct figures. That's what you've got today.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Tell them you're willing to accept either figure.

**Mr. Lewis:** And the minister and his staff worked all night.

**Mr. MacDonald:** If you work on it for another couple of weeks do you suppose it would get down to zero?

**Hon. W. Newman:** Don't be silly now. Ask a sensible question.

**Mr. Lewis:** Bill, you're doing well.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question period is rapidly degenerating again; let's just keep it orderly. The hon. member for Welland has been trying to ask a supplementary; we'll allow it.

**Mr. Swart:** In view of the comments about the preservation of the agricultural land in the Niagara Peninsula, I'd like to ask the Minister of Agriculture and Food whether he is aware of the fact that the percentage rate of growth on the prime agricultural land, particularly the fruit land in the Niagara Peninsula, has increased from something like 45 per cent to over 80 per cent in the last five years. Is he aware of that? Secondly, can he name one instance in which development—either residential or the extension of sewer or water—has been stopped because it was extending into good agricultural land; just one instance?

**Mr. Lewis:** Give us something concrete.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be only too glad to. We've had negotiations with the regional municipality of Niagara; again, we believe in the democratic process. They have pulled in their boundaries to preserve agricultural lands, and that was as a result of a joint effort in which our food lands development branch worked with that regional municipality. We have excellent co-operation with them and they have drawn in their boundaries.

Interjections.

## MONEY FOR INCOME STABILIZATION PLAN

**Mr. Lewis:** A further question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food: Since last year's Throne Speech and this year's Throne Speech and the document he tabled today all guarantee the early emergence of a food income stabilization plan for Ontario, where is the money in the budget that was tabled by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) Tuesday night?

**Mr. Nixon:** Supplementary estimates, eh, Bill?

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, that matter will be dealt with when the estimates for the resources policy field are tabled.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Where is it?

**Mr. Lewis:** Just a second, by way of supplementary: Is it true to say there is certainly no money that could possibly fund even the first year of a farm income stabilization plan? Is it true to say that is nowhere evident in any of the budget figures?

**Mr. Shore:** They'll be in the supplementary budget.

**Mr. Lewis:** How come the government makes those promises and then repudiates them less than one month later?

**Hon. W. Newman:** You know, this gets a little bit ridiculous; I wish the hon. Leader of the Opposition would take a course at Guelph and find out about some of these things. We have Bill C-50, which is a federal bill that stabilizes eight commodities.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Just a minute. I'm saying I was promised that by March 31 of this year we would have the basic prices for those

commodities. We had to work on our budget without knowing exactly what was going to happen there, because we didn't have those figures—and we still don't have them.

**Mr. Reid:** Somebody else's fault again.

**Hon. W. Newman:** As far as the final stabilization is concerned, I would like to assure this House that when the stabilization bill is introduced, and as the programmes move forward, the funds will be available for stabilization in this province.

**Mr. Reid:** Where are they going to come from?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

**Mr. Nixon:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a matter of clarification, can the minister assure us that this is not going to be a promise like the promise that appeared in the previous Speech from the Throne on this very matter; and if it does come in, are we to assume that it will be financed, not from some estimate but in fact from a supplementary budget, and that it gives the Treasurer the opportunity to talk about the retrenchment and the reduction of costs when we know full well that if we do have a programme—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Don't debate it. The question has been asked.

**Mr. Nixon:** —we're going to be committed—

**Mr. Lewis:** It's \$100 million minimum.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, neither one of the hon. members has much faith in the agricultural industry. That's all I've got to say here.

**Mr. Reid:** We don't have any faith in the ministry.

**Mr. Nixon:** I'll tell you: It's not the farmers fault, it's yours. You are not backing it up with a dollar. It's just words.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Just a minute, if you want to talk about the stabilization bill, the stabilization bill will be coming into this House—

**Mr. Roy:** We have no faith in you.

**Mr. Lewis:** It's so much nonsense.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. W. Newman:** The hon. members opposite don't have any faith that prices of agricultural products are going to be lowered.

**Mr. Reid:** Where's the money going to come from?

Interjections.

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, if they want to hear it, that's fine; I'm prepared to answer the question. If they don't want to, that's fine by me too.

**Mr. Reid:** We just want to know where the money is coming from.

**Hon. W. Newman:** The stabilization bill will be coming in—

**Mr. Riddell:** When?

**Hon. W. Newman:** I said it would be coming in very shortly; that's what I said.

Interjections.

**Hon. W. Newman:** The hon. members opposite don't even want to listen.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are too many interjections. If we're going to have as many as this, there will not be time for new questions or supplementaries either. Now, let's get back to an orderly question-and-answer period.

**Mr. Shore:** Supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** Not just for a moment, thank you. The member for York South has a supplementary first of all.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Supplementary to the minister: Since his parliamentary assistant, speaking to the agrologists in Stoney Creek a full 10 days ago, on March 31, gave pretty full details of the farm income stabilization programme, doesn't the minister think it is time this House might be informed both as to nature of the programme and the cost in rather explicit detail, rather than going outside the House?

**Hon. W. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say this about my parliamentary assistant, he is a very capable person and does a very fine job.

**Mr. S. Smith:** I appeal to you, Mr. Speaker: Does that help?

**Mr. Roy:** With you there, he is looking better all the time.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. W. Newman:** As I said, Mr. Speaker, the stabilization bill will be coming in very shortly.



Mr. Cassidy: But no money.

Hon. W. Newman: Oh yes.

Mr. Speaker: The final supplementary, the member for London North.

Mr. Shore: Could I ask how this farm stabilization programme will be funded?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question was asked.

#### BRADLEY-GEORGETOWN HYDRO ROUTE

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of Energy: How is it that the Ombudsman in Ontario engaged in a preliminary investigation of several months' duration into the Bradley-Georgetown hydro corridor plan before he was informed that a cabinet minute dated May 29, 1974, precluded him from the inquiry which had accumulated many hours, indeed months, of his time?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, in answer to that question, I think in fact a number of months ago it was indicated to the Ombudsman or to staff in his office that there was some question in the minds of the officials of my ministry as to whether his Act did in fact give him jurisdiction. Somewhere in this file, I have the chronology of the contacts between the Ombudsman's office and mine. If the hon. Leader of the Opposition would like, I can send him, later today or tomorrow, a letter indicating the chronology of the contacts on that.

[3:15]

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, the minister will recall, then, that he wrote the Ombudsman in December, 1975, saying that he was seeking a certificate from the Attorney General to indicate that his investigation was precluded under the Act, which certificate never came. The Ombudsman's right was reversed on April 5, by a reference to a cabinet minute of May 29, 1974, about which no one in this Legislature or the citizens' committee or the Ombudsman knew anything.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, that last part is absolutely not true.

Mr. Lewis: Why?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Absolutely not true. The hon. member will know that on July 11, 1974, my colleague—

Mr. Lewis: You announced your decision.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: —the former Minister of Energy (Mr. McKeough), did announce the government's decision—

Mr. Lewis: But didn't tell anybody about it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: —which embraced the decision taken by the cabinet of Ontario on May 29, 1974.

Mr. Lewis: You didn't have your environmental study.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The environmental study—again, if the member will look at the statement of July 11, 1974, the now Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) indicated that study was, in fact, under way.

Mr. Lewis: It wasn't completed.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The member is quite correct in saying that it wasn't completed.

It was delivered to the ministry in December, 1974, and released in January, 1975. The primary concern at the time, as the member will recall, was the portion of the route between section 33 and 95, as expressed, I think, by one or two of the members and certainly by the former member for York Centre. That was the primary concern. In fact, looking over Hansard for the last two years I would suggest it was the only concern ever expressed.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker: Would the minister prepare a full chronology of all of these events and table it, since it appears very clearly that the cabinet decision dated May 29, 1974, which precluded the Ombudsman's investigation was taken before the intensive investigations undertaken by Mr. Caverly and others? It would appear that while the cabinet had made up its mind on this matter, they were allowing other interested citizens to think that the matter was not decided, and the government undertook expensive and lengthy investigations after the decisive fact had been achieved.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, let me just give the hon. member and the House some of the more important dates.

Mr. Nixon: We would like all of them tabled.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Well, fine. I'll be glad to. Let me just say this, that in fact the decision was taken in 1969, the members will recall, to build the Bruce A generating sta-

tion. In early 1972 the cabinet of the day decided that the terminus of the line from that station would be in the Georgetown-Milton area and that was announced at the time.

**Mr. Peterson:** How old were you then?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** In 1974 we got into the Solandt commission on the Nanticoke to Pickering—I'm sorry, that should be 1973 and 1974—and in 1974 he recommended there be no further consideration of a Bruce to Essa corridor. He gave extensive time to individuals who made representations for such a study and he specifically recommended against such a further study.

On May 2, before the decision was taken by cabinet, representatives of the interested citizens' group in that part of Ontario met with ministers of the cabinet committee on resources development to put yet again their view that there should be a further study of a Bruce to Essa corridor, notwithstanding the recommendation of commissioner Solandt. It was not until May 29, almost four weeks later, that the decision was taken by the government and announced by my colleague, the then Minister of Energy (Mr. McKeough), on July 11 of that same year.

**Mr. Speaker:** Further questions. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk with his questions please.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. In view of the fact that 20 minutes has been taken with the first set of leadoff questions with their supplementaries, I think we should get on to new questions. If there is time, the hon. members may come back to it.

The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk with his question.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please, the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk is leading off the questions for his party.

#### INCREASE IN OHIP PREMIUMS

**Mr. Nixon:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I put a question to the Treasurer having to do with the decision to increase the OHIP fees. He is aware of the large proportion of municipal employees who have 100 per cent of their OHIP charges paid by their employers, a large percentage of hospital employees have 100 per cent of their hospitalization paid; has he calculated the impact of this decision on the already burdened municipal and hospital board budgets?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Not specifically, Mr. Speaker, but we will do so.

**Mr. Nixon:** Supplementary: Since the matter appears to be justified in the Treasurer's statement that in fact somebody else is going to pay this for the individuals, and it turns out that the municipal councils and the hospital boards are going to be paying it, is this not simply another indication of the government's readiness to shift the responsibility for its own budgetary requirements to municipal boards and other boards?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** If I followed that question correctly, the answer is no.

Interjections.

**Mr. Deans:** Supplementary: Is it not true that in the case of private corporations at least a portion of the cost attributable to premiums paid by the employer is tax deductible from corporate tax, so therefore they don't have to carry the full burden of this additional cost; while in the case of municipalities and school boards the government has already reduced the amounts of money this year over and against last year, at least the rate of increase, and they're going to have to transfer that additional cost, every cent of it to the municipal taxpayer, because they don't benefit in the same way as private corporations?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, as a quick estimate, I think the member is talking about something which would probably be less than half of one per cent of payroll.

**Mr. Deans:** What difference does that make?

**Mr. S. Smith:** Supplementary: So that he need not guess, is the Treasurer aware of the fact that the calculations in Metropolitan Toronto alone for this particular item of his will cost approximately an additional \$80,000? Is he prepared to make any form of assistance available to the Metropolitan Toronto people so they don't have to suffer that additional burden after he has already limited them?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Perhaps the leader of the third party would like to put on the record the total budget of Metropolitan Toronto, and put these things in perspective.

**Mr. Deans:** What difference does that make?

**Mr. S. Smith:** What is half a million? Famous statement.



**Mr. Lewis:** By way of supplementary, is the Treasurer aware—probably he isn't—what consternation he has caused at the Anti-Inflation Board by the arbitrary increase in OHIP premiums, which in many instances of contracts already rolled back, represents more than one per cent, or indeed the equivalent of the rollback? And what is he going to do now in discussions with the board about employers or employees who may be in violation of that contract as a result of this arbitrary imposition?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, I would find it hard to believe it is going to amount to more than one per cent.

**Mr. Lewis:** The contract is rolled back by one per cent.

**Mr. Sweeney:** Supplementary: Is the Treasurer aware of the fact that one small university in this province—namely Brock, at St. Catharines—had completed its budget and has just now calculated that this additional cost will add \$50,000 that it doesn't have? That's just one small university.

**Mr. Reid:** That is a small amount.

**Mr. S. Smith:** "Look at their total budget," he is going to tell you.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the budget of the—

**Mr. Ruston:** Going to get it back on income taxes.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** I am aware that the budget of colleges and universities in this province, with two exceptions, increased more than any other sector of total government expenditures.

**Mr. S. Smith:** And municipalities decreased.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

## SUPPORT GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES

**Mr. Nixon:** A final question of the Treasurer: I wonder if he can explain to the House why in his budget he revoked the financial commitment to municipalities that the general support grant would under no circumstances be less than 95 per cent of the payments made in the year previous?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, we announced that a year ago.

**Mr. Nixon:** It was a year ago that he announced they would not allow the grant to fall below 95 per cent, and in the statement that he made—

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** For one year, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Nixon:** —last night he specifically revoked it; on page 14.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** No.

**Mr. Nixon:** Oh well, I'll read it to him. It says, "The 95 per cent guarantee applicable is terminated." I would ask the minister a supplementary: How many municipalities are going to find that general grant is less than 95 per cent of what was payable a year ago?

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Mr. Speaker, we made that announcement one year ago. It was announced in the budget one year ago.

**Mr. Nixon:** All right, here it is in the statement last night.

**Hon. Mr. McKeough:** Yes, we are confirming again that it's terminated. But if the member looks in the budget a year ago, if he can read it, he'll find it was said a year ago.

**Mr. S. Smith:** No longer operable.

**Mr. Nixon:** How many townships are going to get less than 95 per cent?

Interjections.

## RENT INCREASES

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. S. Smith) asked a question on April 6 concerning the Ontario Housing tenants in Hamilton being asked to sign leases three months in advance of the commencement of the lease and also that rents were being indicated in the lease for an amount in excess of an eight per cent increase. Mr. Speaker, I believe there has been a misunderstanding between the persons gathering information and the person providing it.

Leases are being renewed; tenants are not being asked to sign new leases. An important aspect of the renewal process is the verification of income, as most of our units are leased on the rent-geared-to-income basis. Under the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act, the landlord—in this case the Hamilton housing authority—is required to provide the tenant with 90 days' notice of any rent increase. That increase does not come into

effect, however, until the anniversary date of the lease.

With respect to increases in excess of eight per cent over the base rent, where our units are leased on the rent-geared-to-income basis, it may be that a tenant's increase in income over the year would entitle us to collect an amount in excess of eight per cent. When this is the case, the tenant is provided with a letter of intent, which states that an application will be made to the local rent review officer for the full amount, but that in the interim the rent increase will be limited to eight per cent.

Pending distribution in the near future of a revised lease form, applicants for assisted housing are asked to sign an offer of accommodation form, which states the rent within the limits of the rent review legislation. If it is the housing authority's intention to apply for a higher rental in keeping with the applicant's income this amount is also stated, so the applicant is kept fully informed of his or her position before making the decision on whether to rent the premises offered.

#### DRUG BENEFIT PLAN

**Mr. Ziemba:** I have a question for the acting Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker; it's to do with the Ontario Drug Benefits Plan. In view of the estimated expenditures in excess of \$57 million for the coming year, half of which is made up of dispensing fees, could the acting minister tell us when she is prepared to renegotiate the Drug Benefits Plan with the Ontario Pharmacists' Association with a view to saving on the cost of these dispensing fees by cancelling the present 30-day supply period?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you when the next group of negotiation discussions will begin with the OPA, but certainly that matter will be considered at that time.

**Mr. Reid:** Is the minister concerned about the study that was done at McMaster and also by the Drug Addiction Foundation about the increase both in medically prescribed drugs and non-prescription drugs in the Province of Ontario? Is she aware of those studies and is she concerned about the large increase in the amounts of drugs used by the population?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member has read any of the small articles which I have written over the last five years, he will find—

**Mr. Peterson:** Don't expect that of anybody, please.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —that in fact my concern about this began almost a decade ago and has in fact been publicized.

Interjections.

**Mr. Reid:** What are they doing about it within the Ministry of Health?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** It is a complicated problem of which we are acutely aware and we are attempting to find some resolution for this problem. Unfortunately, it has to do with the concepts of many of our citizens that **there is a pill for every ill**, and that any discomfort of any kind can be treated with some kind of medication.

**Mr. Shore:** What have they got for politics?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** This requires a very large and broadly based education project—

Interjections.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** —which the ministry has begun; but it's certainly not broad enough as yet.

Interjections.

**Mr. Reid:** But what about the doctor-prescribed drugs?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware of the fact that druggists, by limiting the amount of pills they provide a patient, will gain more in terms of remuneration by refilling the same application over many more times? If the minister is aware of this practice, what does she intend to do to eliminate this method of ripping off the Ontario taxpayer?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, this practice is in some areas widespread. The ministry is aware of it. There are some solutions which can be found, but there is not **one single solution** which will provide answers to all of the problems involved. We are looking at it.

[3:30]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think we should get on to the questions. There are many more people with questions. The member for Halton-Burlington, please.



# BRADLEY-GEORGETOWN HYDRO ROUTE

**Mr. Reed:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy.

**Mr. Yakabuski:** That is not a new question.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Really got you, eh?

**Mr. Reed:** On May 29, 1974, when the decision was made which affected the Ombudsman's participation in the Bradley-Georgetown corridor, was Hydro's environmental report available and, if not, on what basis was that cabinet decision made?

**Hon. Mr. Handleman:** Finally heard about it.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I have indicated on a number of occasions to people in the area affected and recently, since the hon. member started to ask about this, in the last 10 days to him that the decision was taken a number of years ago—in fact, it was over four years ago—

**An hon. member:** In other words—

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** —that the terminus of the line to bring power out of Bruce would be in the general Georgetown-Milton area, for reasons of system security—reasons which are well known to him.

The member will know, as I indicated earlier, that the environmental reports prepared by Hydro on the Bradley to Georgetown corridor were completed and delivered to the ministry in December, 1974, and released to the public on Jan. 6, 1975. He will also know that in March, 1975, when the interested citizens' group visited me in my office—on March 25, I believe it was—I ordered Hydro to cease all work on the line until I had considered their request. The member will know, of course, that my response to the request was to order the Environmental Hearing Board to investigate the portion between Points 33 and 95, that is between Colbeck and Limehouse.

I notice—I have a copy of an advertisement of the hon. member from the last election—and he was prepared to stop it altogether. I put to him again the question which I put to him in the letter which I sent him several days ago: is he prepared to make all power consumers of the Province of Ontario pay the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars that will be involved in such a delay?

**Mr. Reed:** Mr. Speaker, the minister has not answered this question. I asked him on what basis the 1974 decision was made?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, I did, in fact, answer the question and if he will pay attention I will tell him again. The decision was taken—

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps you might read it in Hansard, thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** That the—

**Mr. Roy:** Don't repeat it, you dummy—my God!

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Albert, be nice.

**Mr. Roy:** Smart ass.

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Watch your language.

**Mr. Roy:** Send him back to school and learn some manners.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Will the minister take his seat? If it's the same question it was answered. I will have a supplementary—

**Mr. Roy:** Show a bit of modesty.

**Mr. Ruston:** Send him back to grade school.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order.

**Mr. Lewis:** I want to ask—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, the hon. member for Ottawa East. Order.

**Mr. Lewis:** Can I not ask a supplementary?

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

**Mr. Lewis:** I am sorry. I want to ask, relating back to the content of the question, what is he going to do as a minister, as a cabinet, to repair the obviously strained relationship with the Ombudsman as reflected in the letter which he sent the minister as a result of this preclusion?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Lewis:** The Ombudsman was contained in the action.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, that's an observation, I suppose, which the hon. member is certainly entitled to make.

**Mr. Shore:** Tell him you have got a very good relationship.

**Mr. Lewis:** I think you should be responsible for that.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Mr. Speaker, I have spent part of the morning rereading Hansard from last year with regard to the debate on the Ombudsman bill and I found it difficult to determine exactly where his party stood on that particular section.

**Mr. Lewis:** It was on the same issue that Jim Renwick had an exchange with John Clement.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I read 12 pages of comments from the hon. member and still couldn't understand where he stood.

**Mr. Renwick:** There is no difficulty; you reread it tonight.

**Mr. Roy:** Why don't you bring us—

**Hon. Mr. Rhodes:** Calm down, Albert.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I think that the relationship between the Ombudsman and the assembly and the government is as good today as it has ever been since he was appointed.

**Mr. Yakabuski:** Don't destroy that image.

**Mr. Roy:** You appear like a nice guy, Paul, next to him.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** It was a case that this was, I think, really the first occasion on which the Ombudsman had to answer for himself the question of the breadth of his jurisdiction particularly in light of section 14(b) of the Ombudsman Act.

**Mr. Nixon:** Is he that bad?

**Mr. Roy:** He is that bad.

**Mr. Yakabuski:** Be a good boy, Albert. You will be the leader in four years when your time is right.

**Mr. Renwick:** He spends most of his time writing.

**Mr. Reed:** Knowing that the cost of this delay, from 1974 to the present time, according to the minister's figures would be from \$25 million to \$48 million as of April 5, 1976, and that further delays would mean additional costs and that availability of full power from the three generating units would be delayed, why were the government's options not exercised at that time?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I don't understand which options the hon. member's referring to.

**Mr. Ruston:** Better go back to school.

**Mr. Reed:** By granting an independent study or telling the people that the government could not have any more public hearings.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** I have made it abundantly clear and my predecessor made it abundantly clear that we would not consider a corridor through Essa or to Essa from Owen Sound to Collingwood. I am sure if the member were to speak to the hon. member who usually sits in front of him, he would find out what he thought of such an idea going through his area. That has been clear all along.

#### ASSESSMENT OF MENTALLY ILL

**Mr. G. E. Smith:** I have a question for the acting Minister of Health. In light of the recent tragic incident in Orillia resulting in the death of a female resident of the Huronia Regional Centre, is the ministry taking steps to provide for continuing psychiatric care for the mentally disturbed retarded at the psychiatric hospital at Penetang?

**Mr. Riddell:** They sure can't send them to Goderich now.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Under the Mental Health Act of this province there is provision for transfer of a patient from centres such as the Huronia centre to the local psychiatric institution for assessment. There is also provision for retention of that individual within the psychiatric institution on the basis of the diagnosis made. I think the unfortunate thing that has happened in this instance is that the assessment did not apparently provide sufficient information to require retention of that patient at Penetang and unfortunately she was in fact returned to the Huronia centre. I think we must make some specific provision for this kind of problem and we will be looking at that in the Mental Health Act.

**Mr. G. E. Smith:** Supplementary: In view of the fact that this type of unfortunate incident has happened at least twice previously, would the minister assure the House that she will communicate with the staff at the psychiatric hospital at Penetang to encourage them to assess these cases a little more thoroughly so that perhaps a repetition of this type could be avoided?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** I shall most certainly communicate with the staff at the Penetang hospital. There are grave difficulties with this specific type of diagnosis and perhaps we need more creditable guidelines, I think, for that sort of diagnosis.



## SAFETY AND ITALIAN WORKERS

**Mr. di Santo:** I have a question of the Minister of Labour. It is related to the statement she made last Monday at the annual conference of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association in which, according to the press, she noted, and I quote from the Star, "Italian workers are inclined to accept those jobs with the greatest safety hazard." I would like to ask the minister whether she will tell us what is the factual evidence that leads her to believe that the Italian workers, and I quote her from the Star, "have an inherent aversion to the idea of governmental authority."

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** The problems which led to the development of the pilot project, about which I was speaking on Monday, were established by a steering committee and an advisory committee made up of eminent citizens and of the Italian-speaking community in Toronto and Hamilton with representation from management and union sides and from independent workers as well. It was on the basis of their assessment of the problems, as they saw them and as transmitted to us, and upon the basis of the statistical information which we have about the incidence of accidents to that specific ethnic group of workers within the construction industry that the project was developed.

**Mr. di Santo:** A final supplementary: If, as the minister says, the programme is not working because the workers are not using the hot line, then will the minister inform the House whether it doesn't work because the workers don't want to use the hot line or because there has been a downgrading of the confidentiality of the programme under pressure of the employers? If that is the case, would the minister consider reporting to the House whether there was any change in that sense?

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, in actual fact, I said the programme was working and is working extremely well; we have been surprised by the response we have been receiving from the workers, specifically on the hot line. There has been no loss of confidentiality, because there has been no pressure upon the individual answering that hot line and those who are collecting and collating the information and the material.

## ACCIDENT SPOT ON QEW

**Mr. Kerrio:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Is the minister aware of the

serious traffic hazard on that part of the Queen Elizabeth Way, generally referred to as Sand Plant Hill, where there have been 95 accidents over the past six years, five of them fatalities, and most recently a fatality in the first week in April? I would ask for the minister's comments on that particular area.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Mr. Speaker, would the member repeat which hill he is referring to?

**Mr. Kerrio:** Mr. Speaker, it's referred to as the Sand Plant Hill; it's between Niagara Falls and St. Catharines.

**Mr. Nixon:** Where the narrow railway bridge is.

**Mr. Kerrio:** There's a railway bridge over it. You could touch the abutments on either side of that highway through the windows of your car.

**An hon. member:** Not if you're wearing your seatbelt.

**Mr. Kerrio:** Even Bob Welch.

**Mr. Lewis:** The perfect picture of the Liberals: driving with both hands out of the window gripping the abutment.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** If the hon. member drives with his hands out both windows at the same time, I wouldn't doubt there's a number of accidents.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with the particular area. In view of the statistics he quotes, I certainly will look into the matter and report back to him.

**Mr. Kerrio:** Supplementary: That's probably the reason we've been having so many accidents—the minister isn't familiar with it. I would ask the minister if he will advise this House, and in particular those interested citizens in that area, if he has any intention of inquiring into and correcting this very hazardous situation. I'll send him the record. I would say to the minister that they don't even have impact equipment and devices at that site—not even a guardrail of any kind. It is most serious, and I would ask the minister's co-operation.

**Hon. Mr. Snow:** Mr. Speaker, I told the hon. member I would look into it. He held up what appears to be a newspaper clipping, and I will not accept that as a statistic. We do obviously have statistics of every area in the province as to the number of accidents and the number of injuries.

Mr. Roy: Obviously you are not familiar with them.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I will get those statistics and I certainly will report to the hon. member.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Mr. Lawlor from the standing private bills committee presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee begs to report the following bills with certain amendments:

Bill Pr7, An Act respecting McMaster University;

Bill Pr8, An Act respecting the borough of York;

Bill Pr10, An Act respecting St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa;

Bill Pr22, An Act respecting Welland Area YMCA-YWCA.

Your committee would recommend that the fees, less the actual cost of printing and penalties, if any, be remitted on Bill Pr10, An Act respecting St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, and Bill Pr22, An Act respecting Welland Area YMCA-YWCA.

[3:45]

Mr. B. Newman from the standing procedural affairs committee presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee has carefully examined the following applications for private Acts and finds the notices, as published in each case, sufficient:

Town of Fort Erie (No. 1);

Town of Fort Erie (No. 2);

City of Windsor;

City of Niagara Falls;

City of Ottawa;

Institute of Professional Librarians of Ontario;

Napco Poultry Ltd.;

City of Burlington;

Dovercourt Baptist Foundation;

Welland-Port Colborne Airport;

City of Toronto;

City of Hamilton;

Township of Bosanquet;

Township of West Carleton.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.  
Introduction of bills.

#### NAPCO POULTRY LTD. ACT

Mr. Mancini moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting Napco Poultry Ltd.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

#### HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Leluk moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Health Insurance Act, 1972.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is in short, to provide persons with plastic cards to be used on visits to physicians, laboratories or hospitals, so that the person would receive at the time of the visit a receipt indicating the services performed and the amount to be billed to the plan.

#### TOWN OF FORT ERIE ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Town of Fort Erie.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

#### TOWN OF FORT ERIE ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Town of Fort Erie.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

#### CITY OF BURLINGTON ACT

Mr. Reed moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the City of Burlington.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

#### CITY OF OTTAWA ACT

Mr. Leluk, on behalf of Mr. Morrow, moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the City of Ottawa.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.



## RANCHERIA MINING CO. LTD. ACT

Mr. Good moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting Rancheria Mining Co. Ltd.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

## ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved second reading of Bill 34, An Act to amend the Ontario Energy Board Act.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, the Ontario Energy Board Act requires that any proposed change in rates that Hydro is to make would have to be submitted some eight months in advance of the date for the implementation of that change so that they can be reviewed—a procedure that this Legislature initiated a couple of years ago.

As hon. members of the Legislature are aware, a select committee is presently investigating Hydro's rates. It has proved to be a very sizable task, and the original date by which we hoped the select committee could complete that work was the end of March. It is now not possible to get a final report in before the end of May.

These amendments simply adjust the requirements of the Act by reducing the requirement from eight months to six months for giving notification of those changes in hydro rates that Hydro might have been considering for next year. In short, Hydro wants to have the benefits of the select committee report before it comes to a final conclusion as to rates for next year.

In short, in one sense it's tidying, but it is only tidying for the purpose of meeting these particular circumstances this year. Therefore, I think the bill is worthy of support and I would certainly recommend to all members of the House that they do support it.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I don't want to object to the bill because I regard it as a technicality and I accept the arguments of my colleague, but I would just like to take this opportunity to lay before the House some of the things that concern me very greatly about this whole procedure. It has become such a cumbersome procedure; it has become such a costly procedure.

I would just like to draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, the events of the last price increase. When Hydro asked for 30 per cent, it went back to the government and came

back at 25 per cent, back to the Ontario Energy Board at 27 per cent and then, through the select committee, down to 22 per cent.

I would respectfully submit that this is a wasteful, cumbersome, nonsensical procedure. I don't think it is fair to Ontario Hydro. Poor Ontario Hydro was waiting until the very last minute last fall before it knew what the rate structure would be on Jan. 1. The report came down in the middle of December. No, it is not fair for anyone to ask an organization of that magnitude to plan on the basis on which the government has asked it to plan.

I would like to suggest this: I think it is time that this organization and the pricing structure become a responsibility of this Legislature through a select committee on a continuing basis or through the government, through the Ministry of Energy. Clearly this is a matter, in my mind, for legislative control. It has such important and profound ramifications on the nature of our borrowing, the financial life in this province and, indeed, the environmental and agricultural aspects, and the issues we were talking about today with respect to the corridors.

I know they are a little wider, the issues I am talking about, than just the pricing application but I would recommend this to the minister for his consideration. He should bring in the wider issues, clearly, to have successful resolution of a lot of these very difficult planning problems and financial problems which he and Hydro face daily. I think it is time to bring those kinds of problems under the control of the House.

I would like to leave that with you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure you that our party will support this particular bill but I think it is time to think of some of these wider issues.

Mr. Renwick: If I may comment very briefly, I would like, on behalf of our caucus, to dissociate our caucus from the remarks made by the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson).

We have spent a long period of time over the years trying to persuade the government that not only natural gas but Ontario Hydro and, indeed, now the whole question of the pricing of oil and petroleum products in the province are quite legitimately a matter of regulation. The place to have them regulated are through the body which has the expertise and which deals with all kinds and nature of energy.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to thank the members for their

assurance that they will support the bill. I should point out to the hon. member for York South that in addition to changing, as he quite rightly points out, the filing date for the 1977 rates from eight months prior to the end of the year to six months, there is also the additional amendment, of course, for the reporting date—at least, for an interim report if not a final report—from four months to three months before the end of the year.

I must say I am pleased to hear the remarks of the hon. member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick). I think what the hon. member for London Centre is implying is a complete and total takeover by the government not only of Ontario Hydro but, through that, of the local utilities.

This party and this government believe there is great merit in having Ontario Hydro set up as a corporate body in the way it is, with its own board of directors. We believe the 353 utilities that exist from one end of the province to the other do deliver a very valuable and efficient service to the communities in which they operate. We would not support the notion of taking them over completely.

The hon. member suggests a committee of this House was somehow going to deal on a regular basis with the question of rates. He will know from the few times he attended the select committee that this is not a very simple matter. He will know that last year the Energy Board spent 55 days on that. They are very expert people; with all due respect to the members of this House, I would suggest they are more expert than we in the various dimensions which affect the question.

**Mr. Peterson:** What kind of power do they have?

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Probably they are more objective.

I think it is very important—this is certainly straying away from the bill—that the government give to Ontario Hydro very clear directions such as recently has been done on the question of borrowing. This has resulted in—

**Mr. Peterson:** Because your bankers made you do it.

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** —a significant and large decrease in the capital borrowing programme to 1985.

**Mr. Peterson:** Your bankers are now running the province.

[4:00]

**Hon. Mr. Timbrell:** Within those bounds of government direction Hydro is in a good position to operate its own show and take care of itself. The Energy Board is surely the place where these rates should be reviewed. This year with the introduction of the anti-inflation programme following the Ontario Energy Board report there was a very peculiar and special circumstance which has resulted in the creation of the select committee. I must say, as I've said before, that I'm very pleased at the breadth of inquiry by the select committee. I think it has been a very beneficial exercise for members of all parties, the government members as well as opposition members, in gaining a closer appreciation of the intricacies of the Ontario Hydro system and the problems which they confront and deal with on a daily basis.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

### THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 34, An Act to amend the Ontario Energy Board Act.

### NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Norton on behalf of Hon. Mr. McKeough moved second reading of Bill 9, An Act to amend the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, 1973.

**Mr. Swart:** It appears that most of the amendments in Bill 9 are technical and routine amendments. But I rise to express some rather serious reservations to clause 1 in the bill. As a matter of fact, I and my party have some reservations about the technique of even having an Escarpment Commission to preserve the Escarpment. We feel there are other ways that it could be done equally effectively or more effectively and a bit more democratically. However, I know, Mr. Speaker, you'll rule me out of order rather quickly if I speak about the bill generally. So I'll return to the reservation on clause 1, which provides for the transfer of responsibility for the Escarpment Commission from TEIGA—really from Intergovernmental Affairs—to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine).



We basically have two objections to it. The first is that it is administratively inappropriate. All of the land-use planning of the province now comes either under TEIGA, and that is regional planning, or comes under the Ministry of Housing, which has jurisdiction over regional and local municipal planning in the province. There certainly must be a great deal of co-ordination and co-operation between the groups that are concerned about planning in the Escarpment area.

There are three groups concerned: the Escarpment Commission, the local and regional planners and the provincial planning department. When the Act was originally written it gave recognition to this. It says:

During the course of the preparation of the Niagara Escarpment plan the commission shall consult with the minister, provincial secretary or other person having charge of any affected ministry and with the council of each municipality within or partly within the Niagara Escarpment planning area with respect to the proposed contents of the plan. [It also says:]

In preparing the Niagara Escarpment plan, the objectives to be sought by the commission in the Niagara Escarpment planning area shall be:

(g) to support municipalities within the Niagara Escarpment planning area in exercise of the planning function conferred upon them by the Planning Act.

Therefore, there is no doubt that the Act provides that there must be close co-ordination and co-operation between these groups.

I am aware that even at the present time there is some arm's length relationship between the commission and some of the local and regional planning groups, but I suggest that if we move this to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development we're putting the provincial level at further arm's length. If this is going to be changed at all from one ministry to another, I suggest that it should go to the Ministry of Housing, which has responsibility for regional and local plans. The second reason we disagree with this clause is that we are afraid, and I think with some justification, that this will mean a shift in emphasis from preservation of the Escarpment to development.

Everyone who lives around the Escarpment and is familiar with the local municipalities and with the Escarpment Commission, knows that there are tremendous pressures by developers and pits and quarries operators to develop along the Escarpment. In fact, it seems to be the policy of the Min-

ister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) to permit any pit and quarry to expand as much as it wants to, even if it is in the Escarpment jurisdiction. In fact, in my area, in the town of Pelham, Steed and Evans, formerly Moyer Sand and Gravel, is going to ultimately achieve the total removal of the fruit land plateau of about two square miles. If they continue at the present rate, they'll totally remove that whole plateau within a period of another decade or two. Against the wishes of the town of Pelham, even without consulting the town of Pelham, permits have been given to expand the gravel operation in that part of the Escarpment area.

It's bad now, but if we change the responsibility to the Resources Development secretariat, even the present situation, we feel, will become worse. Perhaps they want to remove the embarrassment, because at this time even their own planners are opposed to what is taking place to some degree in the Escarpment area and they're having battles within their department. I suppose if we move it away from the planning departments in the province it will remove that irritation.

Certainly the intent of the Act is to preserve the Escarpment. We read in clause after clause that the object is to protect the unique ecologic and historic areas, to maintain and enhance the quality and character of natural streams and water supplies, to provide adequate opportunities for outdoor recreation, to maintain and enhance the open landscape character of the Niagara Escarpment insofar as possible. That's the purpose of the proposed plan.

I suggest it will not enhance this if we change it into that secretariat, and we will oppose it for that reason. I have some questions about the intent in changing it, unless it is the last reason that I have given, and I suspect that is the truth. Or is it too controversial for the present minister—we know it is a controversial subject—and he wants to transfer it to an expendable minister? I'm not sure whether that may be part of the reason, but we are convinced that this move, far from doing anything to further preserve the Escarpment, will in fact make it easier for development to take place on the Escarpment, and therefore we are opposing this section of the bill.

**Mr. Good:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some general comments regarding proposed amendments to the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.

First, of course, I suppose it is significant in some manner that there is a transfer tak-

ing place from TEIGA to the resources development policy field under the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Irvine). The only reason that I could find for the transfer—there may be other underlying reasons—is that TEIGA and the minister, the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), are overburdened with work and have too much. We in this caucus have said for a considerable length of time that the municipal affairs portfolio should be taken out of TEIGA and made a separate portfolio. Perhaps the whole municipal affairs arrangement should be taken from TEIGA and placed under the jurisdiction of some other minister.

I won't go so far as to say that this is the proper resting place for municipal affairs or, in fact, for this particular Act, but in principle I do agree generally that the Treasurer can't possibly keep his finger on everything that is going on within his ministry without delegating authority to his parliamentary assistant and now to the member for Carleton-Grenville, the minister responsible for resources development.

There is perhaps a danger in this, in that while major policy is made in TEIGA, when legislation comes before this House dealing with matters such as this and passage of the bill is in the hands of a parliamentary assistant, we find it impossible to argue effectively and point or to effect any changes in the bill; such authority is not delegated when authority for passage of a bill is delegated. We also run into this, of course, in the case of policy decisions that are made in TEIGA but implemented by the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen). We can't get to the root cause of things. The Minister of Revenue has said consistently in this House, "I am just the cash register to collect the money; I don't make the policy." So we can't argue policy with the Minister of Revenue. Perhaps the same complaint could be made here.

I don't think we can enter into any debate on any proposed amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act without reminding this House and the people of Ontario that, had the Gertler report been acted on when it was first produced, by this year, the year 1976, the complete Niagara Escarpment would have been under the controls specified by Prof. Len Gertler from the University of Waterloo.

**Mr. Nixon:** It could have been done.

**Mr. Good:** It could have been done. The report was issued in 1968. It was an eight-year plan; it was going to involve the purchase of 90,000 acres by the province,

and the total cost to the Province of Ontario over an eight-year period would have been \$31.5 million. In retrospect, can we believe that the government was so inactive, so irresponsible, that it had its eyes closed so much to the need for some kind of action on the Niagara Escarpment that it missed the opportunity completely?

**Mr. Nixon:** They built Ontario Place instead.

**Mr. Good:** The three steps for controlling the Escarpment Commission would have been completed this year, 1976, if the plan had been started at the time Prof. Gertler indicated in his report. That report is being proved correct in every way.

John White, the former Treasurer, said just a couple of years ago that it would cost \$1.3 billion for the government to control development on the Escarpment. Well, we knew he was exaggerating, as he usually did on certain matters when it suited the occasion; but certainly the people of Ontario must know now, and it must be reiterated again, that the Niagara Escarpment could have been completely under controls this year for a cost of \$31.5 million by, first of all, purchasing certain selected areas that the report showed had to be purchased by the province.

[4:15]

There were other selective areas where options, agreements and future purchases could have taken place. Finally, for the rest of the Escarpment the regulatory matters, such as zoning and controls, could have taken place. This could have taken place all within the framework of the provincial plan at the time for the Escarpment which was laid out so plainly before this government in 1968. The local municipalities would have co-operated, I am sure, in their zoning.

We missed the chance and now we are still, eight years later, trying to bring some order, some reasonable approach, to the future development of the Niagara Escarpment. I talked the other day with the director of the Escarpment Commission and he confirmed my fears that the three-year target will not be met for the development of the plan for the Niagara Escarpment. They expect to have the draft plan completed by the end of this year, hopefully.

I am sure the provisions of the Act which then require the participation of the municipalities, the public and councils will take another six, eight or 10 years, and maybe another year after that. Certainly, the three-year target will not be met for the plan to



be completed and the final plan turned back to the municipalities for administration.

Many of us feel very badly that we still have to deal with this legislation as planning and control legislation. It started out with the minister going to the commission; it is now part way through the process over which the commission has the control and, hopefully, it will end up back in the control of the local municipalities. That is where the final decision must rest, in the eyes of the people who live there and in the eyes of the people of Ontario.

One amendment here is most interesting. This is the amendment which simply says the commission is a body corporate without share capital; it's an addition to section 5 of the bill. I gather that this stems from the fact that the Niagara Escarpment Commission, not being a body corporate, has had no standing before the OMB.

Many of us were startled about two years ago to learn that no unincorporated body has any status before the Ontario Municipal Board. Neighbourhood associations which were noncorporated or groups of people could not appear before the board. In some legal decision I think, if my memory is correct, the interpretation of the word person in the OMB Act precluded unincorporated bodies from appearing before the board. Now we have a situation in which the commission has no standing before the Ontario Municipal Board.

If, for instance, a land division committee allows this severance or separation of property within the Niagara Escarpment Commission, even though the commission has previously expressed its views to that body, the commission then may wish to appeal that decision of the local land division committee. Maybe it could be just as easily a zoning bylaw in a municipality or a change to an official plan or something of this nature.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission found that because it was not incorporated it could not go as a commission to the Ontario Municipal Board hearing to put forth its objections. Let me tell the members there are many people—farmers and those who have land up in the northern end of the Escarpment particularly—who think there's nothing wrong with that position. They think it is just great if the commission has no standing before the OMB.

In other words, if the local board has approved the severance, they are saying why should the commission have authority to come in and fight against a decision made by a local land division committee or a local

council in the case of a zoning bylaw? There's perhaps a little more to it than that.

I think, personally, the commission does have to have corporate standing not only for that reason but for other matters which, I suppose, make it a little more approachable; make it, I suppose, subject to suit if you wanted to sue them or something of that nature. It's an interesting amendment. It's a wonder it wasn't thought of in the first place when the bill went through, but I presume from the commission's point of view it is a necessary amendment.

As to the status of the municipal bylaws, I was given to understand when the bill went through there was no problem about that in the bill. I always understood that once the plan was completed, all municipal bylaws that had been, one might say made dormant during this planning process, would automatically come back into being when the plan for the Escarpment was completed and turned back to the municipality.

We know that the official plans of the municipality also fell victim to the Niagara Escarpment Commission. All the planning that had been done—and many of those municipalities were on the verge of coming forth with official plans—went out the window when this grandiose plan was put through and when this legislation went through, which was in fact a complicated and costly way of doing what could have been done under the Gertler recommendations of 1968.

I can see the validity in the last amendment. If permission is given by the commission to do certain things with a piece of land, there is doubt that permission would carry on if the land is sold. As I read this, the authority to sever, the authority to build or the authority to change the status of a piece of land after this amendment will now follow rather than have to be renewed if the piece of property is sold.

While we have been critical of the whole Niagara Escarpment development plan, in light of the fact that it could have been done at much less cost and much more expediently if the government had taken up the Gertler report, we find we're stuck with this thing now and we've got to make it work; so we will support these amendments as they appear before us.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does any other member wish to participate? The hon. member for Carleton-Grenville.

**Hon. Mr. Irvine:** I would like to say a very few words in relation to only a portion

of the bill, in reply to the member for Welland (Mr. Swart) in particular. The transfer of responsibility from Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs to myself and to our policy people is very much in order. The policy field has the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of TEIGA and various other ministries which relate to resources development, as members are well aware.

The implementation of this plan is now under the jurisdiction of the commission, and I want to say at this time that the commission has, in my opinion, functioned very well in the past. It has had problems, like any other commission would with a very difficult situation to handle. But I do think the members of the commission are to be complimented at this time for what they have achieved.

I see the transfer of this responsibility as a very practical way to handle the situation. We are co-ordinating every week. We meet on Thursdays, and more often during the week if necessary, to co-ordinate the activities of the various ministries in our policy field. A matter of planning, whether it comes from Treasury or whether it comes from the Ministry of Housing or whether it comes from Natural Resources, naturally comes to our policy field. Therefore it's not correct to say that the transfer of this responsibility is, as the member for Welland stated, I believe, for the sole purpose of making sure the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment was not preserved. That is not a true statement at all.

We understand that the Niagara Escarpment should be preserved in general, but we also understand that some building should be allowed. Any proposals will come before several of my ministries, and therefore will be dealt with on their own feasibility, whether or not any proposal will be accepted is very much dependent upon the views of other ministers. The Ministry of the Environment, for instance, would very much question whether or not a certain development should go ahead. Therefore, I think it's not fair to say that we are trying to move the responsibility over because of the possibility that the Niagara Escarpment will not be preserved. That is absolutely false.

With regard to the member for Waterloo North's (Mr. Good) comment as to the possibility of acquiring 90,000 acres for \$31.5 million, I believe that's a supposition that only he could come forward with. It isn't a fact, as far as we are concerned. We believe it

would have cost many millions of dollars more than that.

**Mr. Good:** That was before you were even around here.

**Hon. Mr. Irvine:** The former Treasurer said it would cost much more than that, and we think—

**Mr. Good:** It could have been done in 1968, and they didn't do anything.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** That was before the commission was established.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Good:** Ask the member from Georgetown.

**Hon. Mr. Irvine:** The member for Waterloo North might restrain himself a bit. I didn't interrupt him. I was trying to listen quite carefully to him. What I am saying is this; we have decided upon a policy which I believe will work. My responsibility is to ensure that the development plan will be brought forward as quickly as possible in keeping with the aims of the commission and of the municipalities that are affected, and we will take this immediately under our jurisdiction once this bill is passed. We will make sure that the people in the area have their desires looked at very carefully, not only by the staff of the commission, but by the members of the commission, and we will ensure that the hearings are held on a regular basis, and that they will be held fairly, and to my knowledge they have been very successful up to this stage.

To suggest that the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) would be the one to take this responsibility is absolutely incorrect. The member for Welland (Mr. Swart) knows full well that the appeals—

**Mr. Nixon:** You have housing on the brain.

**Hon. Mr. Irvine:** The member for Welland mentioned that the Minister of Housing should be the one to take over this responsibility.

**Mr. Good:** Don't look at me.

**Mr. Nixon:** We thought you were pointing that finger at our colleague.

**Hon. Mr. Irvine:** He has already left—no, he has already left; I am just merely mentioning that the member for Welland stated that it should go to Housing. Housing couldn't possibly handle it because it would have, I would think, a dual role to play. First of all,



the Minister of Housing has to decide on the hearings that are held by the hearing officers, the decision is that of the Minister of Housing. What we are doing is playing a neutral role on the basis of whether or not a proposal should go forth, and I believe we can effectively handle this particular responsibility without any problem and without any handicap as far as the commission is concerned. I want to assure the hon. member for Waterloo North that I want to work with the commission, this government does, and we will do so. I think we will find in the future that we have preserved the Escarpment and we have also had some development.

**Mr. Good:** From 1968 to 1972 you didn't do a thing.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Lakeshore.

**Mr. Lawlor:** The handling of this, from beginning to end, starting many years ago now when we were all hoary young children, attending in our infancy upon this institution, has been a tale of scandal. The hiding, first of all, of the Gertler report, then the failure to implement it; the foot-dragging that has occurred throughout, the whole deportment of the ministry, of the Treasury or any other ministry of this government with respect to the Niagara Escarpment, has been a lamentable tale of deficiency and malfeasance and we can have scarcely anything but deep suspicion of the present moves. Because somehow I personally, and I am sure others in this House, feel that the present appointment system—listen, if a number of local reeves, if a number of local municipal officials are caught up in the plan, their prime responsibility is to advance the social and economic viability and benefits to their regions. They are in a position where they are expected to do that. I don't fault them on it, as they then make incursions upon the Escarpment itself in the interests of economic growth, to do the job they have been elected or appointed to do. They represent a very substantial portion of the members, purportedly, on the new corporation.

There is a kind of conflict concept worked into the very core of this thing and the government is working adversely to the interests of what was proclaimed in the Gertler report and what is wanted in an overall way by the people of the Province of Ontario for the preservation of that unique land scheme.

[4:30]

This is a great loss. I would like to refer the House to a letter—to remarks as they are called—by the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. McKeough) at the annual meeting of the Sierra Club of Ontario, at King, Ont., on Oct. 25, 1975. He's in good company on this particular occasion. He's not with the financial interests of the province. He's not rubbing shoulders with the magnates who couldn't care less about what goes on in ecosystems or in any other way.

He's talking to the people of the Sierra Club and therefore he accommodates—as I read these remarks—his whole attitude and deportment to a naturalist environment and to a sense of ecological responsibility. At the beginning he says—no, a little further down:

We are entering a period which, in my opinion, may well be characterized by greater economic stability, less growth, but more social instability with an increasing emphasis on individual human values in planning. This has been described as a shift from planning as an exercise in economics to planning as a study of man's total individual and collective needs, social and cultural as well as economic.

How enlightened can he get? What lip service is paid to the new idols of the tribe? He's getting very good at that. I get the sense that he doesn't mean a damn word of it.

We got this blatheration over here this afternoon and we get it in the budget debate. He makes posturings and pays lip service to the current ideology and the movement which have been creeping out of America now for 10 years. Finally, they hit the Treasurer and his speech writer: I suppose it's his speech writer because I don't think it emanates from him directly.

My feeling is that the government, basically—and this determinant member for government—has the attitude with respect to economic growth: "Blow the works and come what may." But these are the words of the good fellow and he went on to say:

We heard much talk during the campaign about big brother government making too many decisions which are better left with individuals. In rural areas particularly there was a generally favourable response to the argument that government should not dictate how a person can use his land. A specific programme such as the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment lost the government many supporters and probably contributed to the defeat of several government candidates.



Let me quote from a brief prepared by the Grey-Owen Sound Planning Board on behalf of the affected municipalities within the county of Grey [he is quoting].

The members of the commission should be clearly aware that public reaction in the county of Grey has been one of frustration, deep concern and, in some cases, overt hostility to what the commission is attempting to do. The content of this brief may really not properly convey the violence of the objection which is being voiced by many land owners and individuals who are involved in businesses associated with the development.

In other words, what the Treasurer is saying is: "Listen, we suffered some infliction of damage during the last election campaign because of our mooted moves with respect to the Niagara Escarpment, however justified they were. I don't think they had really any basis for complaint. We haven't done all that much, Lord knows. Nevertheless, this is the way it is now and we're going to have to pull back and lift whatever onus we placed on this particular area in order to win more votes."

I take it that what is happening here today is part of that overall strategy and plan. That's the thrust. He's removing it from his shoulders and from the areas of specific planning in this province over to other ministries which have no planning auspices and which haven't got the vast resources of TEIGA. The political climate and the way the pressure will be lifted from these numerous areas are detrimental to any future prospects with respect to the carrying out of Gertler—however belated, however truncated and however lost to future generations the recommendations of the Gertler report may be. This is the context in which we must locate this legislation.

The second thing is a form of subversion too. It is the appeal to local determinations in the matter. There must be some balance in this thing. One expects localities to have a certain sovereignty, a certain self-determination, but you must not use the municipality argument and the local argument as the stalking horse for hiding somewhat more nefarious purposes and particularly, as I said at the beginning of my speech, when doing so may very well undermine the principle that we are seeking to set up.

We are not talking for ourselves in this particular bill. We are talking 50 years from now. We are talking of a future generation who wants recreational land use to be exer-

cised in this area. The big wigs won't have to locate their houses up along the ridge of the Escarpment so that they can see for 25 miles as they look out their window in the evening over cocktails. That is not a requisite for the future development of this province or for the good of an increasing and expanded region, as we heard in the statement today. That's what has happened, very wealthy individuals taking their racehorses into their bedrooms with them are located along the escarpment and seem to be able to get the grants in this particular wise—

**Mr. Nixon:** What is that about racehorses? I thought they just took the heads in with them?

**Mr. Lawlor:** —on the Forks of the Credit and up through the regions north thereof. You can locate them all the way through. Some of them are very powerful Tories incidentally. The present ministry that is taking over this particular function hasn't got very much weight in this direction.

What do you do with respect to the plots of record? Are they going to remain plots of record on the books of the registry office in the way they have been? What happens—and this is in the experience of the commission as it presently stands—to those individuals who have been granted new zoning and new lot allocations? They don't use it all. They turn around and they want to sell off the piece that they haven't utilized because it's very substantial. They have a vested right at that particular point.

It is very difficult for local bodies, planning or otherwise, and for the commission itself which really has no final authority in this matter anyway, and will not have, to say no, because the thing has already been designated for a particular purpose. If they want to sell off a portion of the land to somebody else to erect another building on or to utilize as they see fit, then the cat is out of the bag. It's a foreclosed issue. That should be prevented. If, on allocations of land for zoning purposes, the full extent of the acreage is not to be used, then whatever they wish to sell must be given as a first option back to the government as the person who will take over and preserve the land.

There isn't very much to indicate it in this particular bill, but the Bruce Trail people have asked for an awful long time for something called a primitive zone throughout the Escarpment. My information is that in instance after instance they have been frustrated. They thought they had the trail delineated and set up. The next thing they know



there is a \$500,000 fortress or mansion or whatever sitting in their path. It has been granted away. The trail then has to be completely re-routed. There are very grave dangers of it not having any continuity at all.

These are the aspects of the Escarpment too. They want to do something now because they have reached a point of desperation. They point to the Appalachian Trail in the United States where what they have done there is to set up a primitive trail. This would keep these buildings and this development back from the very wide swath of the Escarpment, around the ridge particularly where this is taking place. As you drive by Highway 401 or out on the highway there, you see the great gaps chewed in the Escarpment by bulldozers and by great machines. Those gaps are ever-widening and the blue sky penetrates through the bosom of the Escarpment. You can see for 500 miles right where the Escarpment ought to be. This is an ongoing process and not a very strict limitation thing.

It is no good shooting it over to Housing, for instance, with the Housing Ministry under the enormous pressure it already is under with respect to producing housing. They are in such a position of strangulation they are likely to do anything to be able to come before this assembly and say, "We have increased the volume of housing for the province." That position is so invidious and so self-serving as to completely undermine the purposes of the Niagara Escarpment zoning as it stands at present.

This is a retrograde move, Mr. Speaker. It is a move that ought not to be made. The whole gravamen of this matter ought to be left in the hands of the Treasury. Much as we distrust them, we distrust the others even more. At least they have people in there who know about planning matters—a vast planning staff, as a matter of fact—and here and there questions of conscience and questions of public benefits do operate. I can't imagine this is going to be operative any longer as this thing is transferred into far less knowing hands and into areas which are already in vested interests in undermining the scheme itself.

These are a few thoughts that I have about what's happening here today, and my understanding is that this party will vote against it and stand firm against it.

**Mr. McKessock:** Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to take a minute, with all due respect to our fellows on our right here, and say that I would have to disagree with them and agree

with the amendment if there is anything in what they have said about the controls being slackened when they are transferred to the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development.

We who live in the Niagara Escarpment control area are certainly in favour of controls being reduced and the control area being reduced. It amazes me that the people from the urban areas and other areas are so interested in helping us preserve our land, which we have been preserving for generations and are quite willing to continue without any interference.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission suggested 75 per cent of the applications are being approved. The fact is that it is so complicated that it's keeping hundreds of people from trying to make an application.

I would also agree that the development permit should go with the land when the land is transferred.

**Mr. Renwick:** Mr. Speaker, I want to speak, I hope briefly, on the bill. I can recall when the member who now sits for Burlington South, formerly the member for Halton West—west?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Halton West, then Burlington South—a growing area.

**Mr. Nixon:** He used to be a Liberal.

**Mr. Renwick:** I can remember something over 10 years ago when the now Minister of the Environment stood in the House and spoke at some length about the need to preserve the Niagara Escarpment. I would guess that was in 1965—it's certainly well over 10 years ago—and we are a long way from having made the kind of progress that was anticipated when the then Premier of the province announced that he was adopting the proposal of the then member for Halton West and proceeding to protect the natural environment of the Niagara Escarpment for all time.

Mr. Speaker, you can well recognize that when a bill comes to us in the guise in which this bill comes, we're not only sceptical about it, we're cynical and extremely suspicious about it. In the very words, the deprecating words which the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. McKeough) used when he introduced this bill, indicating that it was dealing solely with the administration of the Act, this transfer of responsibility is simply a reflection of so and so and so and so and so.

We were alerted to the very real possibility, confirmed today by the Treasurer him-

self in his lengthy statement about the plan for Ontario, when he came to the four or five lines dealing with the Niagara Escarpment, that there was going to be a significant and substantial shift in emphasis away from the exact words as they are used in the statute for the protection of that environment.

[4:45]

I think it's worthwhile in a debate such as this to state exactly what the purpose was when the bill was finally enacted in 1973:

The purpose of this Act is to provide for the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and land in its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment and to ensure only such development occurs as is compatible with the natural environment.

The shift of responsibility from the Treasurer to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine) of the Province of Ontario in this bill represents a shift in the policy of the government with respect to the Escarpment. The two are identical.

My friend from Waterloo North (Mr. Good), who spoke on the bill, said he couldn't think of why the change was being made. I can think of why the change is being made—it'll put the Escarpment closer to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier).

Mr. Nixon: There's another reason.

Mr. Renwick: The pits and quarries legislation will again become part of the economic development that we tried desperately to have at least curtailed—

Mr. Nixon: Oh, you are seeing bogymen. They just want to make a job for the provincial secretary.

Mr. Renwick: —substantially curtailed. If it had gone to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) as a responsibility, then yes, I could understand it. He's keenly concerned and interested about it.

Mr. Nixon: He broke his arm pounding the desk.

Mr. Renwick: On the Escarpment too.

Mr. Nixon: Remember "The polluter must pay"? He's got down physical violence, for heaven's sake.

Mr. Renwick: But there's no question that the electoral disaster for the Conservative Party along the Niagara Escarpment has led to the changes which are being made.

What better than to have the ministers who are involved in the Niagara Escarpment

and its development come, one of them, from Kenora, one of them from Sault Ste. Marie, and the other one from Grenville—we couldn't possibly have found three ministers more remote from the Escarpment than the ministers who are now going to have this responsibility overall for the protection of that environment.

I had no really serious concern about it becoming a corporation. I can understand that. I consider that is a technical amendment.

I'm very concerned about the development permit following the land; very concerned about that. Someone gets the development permit for the land, then sells the land. What price is it going to be sold at? A development permit is going to be of significant value, and even under the Liquor Licence Act, we've had enough sense not to permit the trafficking in permits for licensed premises. By making the development permit go with the land, we're just begging for an enhancement of the price of land on the Escarpment.

At least there should be some review and there should not be any substantial markup because some particular owner has been able to extract a development permit for the purposes of some kind of permitted development on the Escarpment.

I think the parliamentary assistant should take the occasion, rare as this is, to report to the assembly about the state of the plan, what the problems are, who are now the members of the commission, what progress is being made, why is it that 11 years after it was first raised in this assembly, and about 10 years from when it was adopted as a policy of the government of Ontario, we're still where we are.

Everyone knows that what the member for Waterloo North said about the Gertler report is factual and accurate. The classification of the three types of land acquisition procedures set out in that report would have ensured by now the control of the Escarpment for all time at a price that the Province of Ontario could afford. This government is no longer in a position, because of its financial mismanagement, to provide the funds that will be able to implement the plan, if and whenever that plan is presented to the cabinet and adopted finally by the Legislature, for that environment.

The funds just will not be available. The conception of the preservation of the Escarpment, as set out and enshrined in the bill as it was originally intended, is not going to take place. If it were going to take place, it should have remained where it was; it



should not have been transferred to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development. With greatest respect to the incumbents, the whole of the provincial secretaryships probably should have been abolished in the course of the so-called cutback of government spending.

There is just no way that we can stand here in the assembly and believe in the good faith of the government with respect to the development of that Escarpment in the way in which it was envisaged. The shift has taken place, the responsibility has been transferred, and the qualitative change in the attitude of the government toward that environment has changed. There is no need for the provincial secretary to stand up and tell us that it is a good commission. Nobody has questioned the good faith of the commission. The commission doesn't have the kind of authority which ultimately will be required in order to ensure the preservation of that Escarpment.

Mr. Speaker, I really spoke relatively repetitiously, but simply to indicate that I feel very strongly about the issue. If I have repeated what my colleagues and others have said, then I know the House will forgive me for this expression of extreme cynicism about what the government is about in this bill. We intend, as my colleague has said, to vote against the bill, to divide the House on second reading, and to place the bill in committee to see if we can get some definitive answers from the government about its intentions with respect to the Escarpment.

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, I have listened with a great deal of interest, as I always do, to what the hon. member for Riverdale has said. Once again I can assure him he was not unduly repetitious.

**Mr. Lawlor:** Are you waiting until we finish speaking all the time?

**Mr. Nixon:** As usual, he added, some interesting aspects to the discussion—very much like the member for Lakeshore, who has telling us about his well-to-do friends, who take their horses into the bedroom. Is that what he said?

**Mr. Davidson:** Only the head.

Interjection.

**Mr. Nixon:** Really, I don't know what his friends do, but I didn't think that had happened since "The Godfather."

**Mr. Lawlor:** Only the head.

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we are honoured in many ways, I am sure, by having the chairman of the Niagara Escarpment Commission present and listening to these discussions. I am quite sure he wishes he had been more successful in competing for the Conservative nomination for—what is it? Wellington-Dufferin-Peel—and could have participated in this discussion directly. I see him leaning forward almost as if he'd like to get up and express his views as the discussion goes on.

The former chairman, of course, is in the House, and perhaps we will hear his views. One would almost think it's a Tory cabal running this thing, if one didn't have a great deal of confidence that such was not the case. I am sure both chairmen, when they held those high and important positions, cast aside any of their political connections in serving the greater good of the community. I must say to you, Mr. Speaker, any time I have communicated with the present chairman I have got back a full and helpful answer which is certainly much appreciated.

I don't believe the bill before us is the matter of high principle the member for Riverdale and his colleagues have tried to paint it. It has three important aspects to it and the one in which I was most interested is the fact that the decisions on the utilization of the various lots and parcels of land are henceforth going to go with the land and not with the individual who owned the land and applied for certain property rights. Our feeling is that any building permit or developmental permit ought to be based on the land itself and not particularly who applies or how capable might be the lawyer he hires to represent him; that the decision made by the commission should be based on the utilization of the land in their overall concept.

We have had very far-reaching and strong misgivings about the concept to begin with, but it is in place and has been operating now for a considerable length of time. We must assume that those people who have these responsibilities are acting in the best interests of the principles of the commission, and as individuals with all of the good will that any of us surely in the same place would attempt to utilize. So I don't feel there is a thing wrong with that particular section; if a decision is made with the proper access to the facts, it should be on the basis of the use of the land and not who has applied. Surely that is something that is supportable.

I am surprised that when the bill was first introduced it wasn't thought necessary to give the Escarpment Commission a corporate

status. Perhaps some of us in opposition should have noticed that was not granted and it might be that we thought that it was appropriate that it did not have full corporate status.

After all, conservation authorities and other agencies of government have the responsibility and the right to appear before many boards and are very influential indeed in putting forward their views. Conservation authorities, more and more, are getting involved in the planning process in a way that I think we may have to examine more fully—hopefully at this very session. But since that is now considered to be an oversight, certainly we have no objection to the correction of that matter, which simply gives the representatives of the commission legal and proper status, particularly when they are appearing before the Municipal Board. And they are going to have more and more opportunities, I feel sure, to do so over the course of their expanding responsibilities.

The matter the NDP tends to feel is of deep concern as a matter of principle is the decision of the government to remove the legislative jurisdiction from the hands of the Treasurer and to put it with the present Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine). The gentleman is a man frankly held in high regard in the House. Because of his courtly manner of responding to questions in the past, we have had a few shouting matches when he was Minister of Housing, but I still feel that although we have had substantial disagreements over these many months that any thought that under his jurisdiction the principles and the goals of the commission are going to be subverted are unreal and probably unfair.

It may in fact be rather impolite of me to say more formally what I said by interjection—that in the establishment of new positions in the cabinet, when the minister was replaced in the housing portfolio he was given this position which frankly we have said frequently we feel should not have been continued. We feel the whole experiment with policy secretariats has been a waste of money and in many respects demeaning to those individuals who have been given the responsibility to carry the conduct of the responsibilities, such as they are and whatever they are.

I really feel one of the reasons the hon. member did not continue as Minister of Housing is that he may have expressed in private the same views that he expressed in public about rent control—and there is no doubt about his views. Coming from Prescott

as he does, one might have even been able to predict them. But if he was not enthusiastic, as the present Minister of Housing is, for the rent control jurisdiction, then you can see why he was moved up where he is, and I have frequently thought: “I wonder what the devil Don does to pass the time.”

#### Interjections.

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, as a policy secretary he, I suppose, can just sit back as he might do and have regular luncheon meetings with a number of his colleagues, with some of their senior staff, and discuss the unfolding of the universe, which is one of the things that concerns politicians at all levels. But there might have been a feeling that here is an able person, a person who is able to maintain his popularity and support back home, and maybe even asking in a weak moment for additional duties, and by golly here we have an amendment which says that he is going to be the minister through which the Niagara Escarpment Commission reports.

Well I am not too much afraid of that. The idea that it means the pits and quarries interests are going to move into the Escarpment again, I believe, is unrealistic. I think beyond the minister there are certain safeguards—

#### Interjections.

**Mr. Nixon:** And even the member for Lakeshore who never hesitates to express his views, even when someone else is expressing his—

[5:00]

**Mr. Lawlor:** Speaking for Eddie all afternoon, even when he's not here.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Listen, there is an application before cabinet now.

**Mr. Nixon:** I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, I have participated in hearings before the Municipal Board and I'm not even a body corporate or whatever you call it. I was able to express views against certain applications for gravel pits and similar things in my own area. We all have certain duties to express public views and opinions in this regard.

I don't share the trepidation expressed by the hon. members of the NDP which has led them to announce that they're going to divide the House on this matter. I can tell you, sir, we will be as watchful as we always are in these important matters and, surely, that is the responsibility of all of us.

While I have said in this House before that I have sometimes doubted the judgement



of the hon. minister who will have the responsibility for this commission in this House, I have never doubted his personal integrity nor his ability to uphold the goals of the commission as they're expressed in the Act.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does any other member wish to participate in this debate?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a few minutes to say a few words about this bill. I think the hon. member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) is unduly cynical, really, regarding the implications of this bill or the result of this bill.

**Mr. Reid:** Goes with the party membership.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** I think members will find that since 1965 the Escarpment has been protected. There has been a great deal of legislation and amending legislation in respect to the Escarpment. There have been various types of control, both local and provincial.

As the hon. member probably knows, at the present time if one applies, for example, for any type of development or just a building permit one involves not only the Niagara Escarpment Commission but the local conservation authority, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Housing, the local municipality, the regional municipality and whatever planning boards are in existence as well as starting out by making the application to a land division committee.

I think the protection, the control and the assessment of any application would indicate that there won't be the type of undue development or the type of development the member envisaged or that the hon. member for Lakeshore implied would result by bringing in this legislation which is actually administrative. It's transferring some responsibility for the Escarpment and certainly there will be no difference in our concern about the Escarpment or the administration or control of its use.

**Mr. Renwick:** There has been very little of the land owned for the people of Ontario.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** In spite of the fact, as the hon. member has said—and I will agree with that—that we haven't acquired or purchased the amount of land we would have liked to have done in the last five or 10 years or as recommended in the Gertler report, the fact is that because of the controls we have imposed on the Escarpment that land is still vacant land. It is still in its natural state and those conservationists in blue trailers and everybody else—

**Mr. Lawlor:** There are new subdivisions there.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** No, they're not new subdivisions; not on the fringe of the Escarpment.

**Mr. Renwick:** The ordinary citizen will feel like a trespasser.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** I think the hon. members have to agree that the planning controls and the planning area as mapped out by TEIGA, and now being administered by the Niagara Escarpment Commission, are much more strict, much more controlled than ever was envisaged in the Gertler report.

**Mr. McKessock:** Too strict.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** I don't entirely agree with the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock) but I don't want to get into an argument about that. There is a limit we can go to as far as developing the Escarpment is concerned, particularly up in the hon. member's area. I don't think that by passing this piece of legislation—really all it does is move the planning phase and the administration and control of the Act, the commission and the Escarpment, from one ministry to the provincial secretariat, to the secretary himself and, as he has indicated, involving those ministers who are part of that secretariat.

The hon. member for Lakeshore mentioned that as you drive along Highway 401, you see the sun peeking through those large gaps in the Escarpment.

**Mr. Lawlor:** You can see forever.

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** That hasn't happened in the last 10 years, and it won't happen again. The hon. member might speak disparagingly of the Pits and Quarries Control Act; but that Act, coupled with the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, and the legislation we have in force at the local level, will mean that no more quarrying operations of the type that took place in previous years will in fact take place on the Escarpment again.

I think this legislation is a good move. It gives the responsibility to those ministers within the resources development secretariat who have direct concern about the future development of the Escarpment, and I am satisfied that in fact the Escarpment will be preserved.

**Mr. Renwick:** We have never doubted that it will physically exist.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does any other member wish to take part in the debate? The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands.

**Mr. Norton:** Mr. Speaker, I will confine my comments to the contents of the legislation that is before the House and try to make my comments as brief as possible. I think both the hon. Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and the Minister of the Environment have commented on a number of points that I had intended to make. I will not be repetitious.

I must say that I think there has been a rather full discussion of the matter this afternoon, and I was particularly pleased—to steal a word from his own vocabulary—with the delightfully skilful blatheration from the member for Lakeshore.

**Mr. Lawlor:** I will remember that.

**Mr. Norton:** He almost accomplished his goal of carrying the whole thing through until 5 p.m. himself.

The expressed cynicism of the member for Riverdale does cause me some concern; but it would cause me more concern if it were not such an all-pervasive kind of cynicism that he resorts to so frequently that I suggest it undermines the impact of it.

**Mr. Lawlor:** He is a believing fellow.

**Mr. Renwick:** Too believing.

**Mr. Norton:** The legislation that is before the House—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Norton:** I hope that I don't stay around long enough to be that cynical.

**Mr. Renwick:** Even my friend the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth) doesn't believe I am cynical.

**Mr. Lawlor:** It grows around here.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Norton:** Mr. Speaker, the transfer of the authority in this particular piece of legislation, I think, does not at all suggest the kind of subversive plot that is being suggested by the members of the official opposition. I think that the purpose behind that has been explained both by the Treasurer, when he introduced the legislation, and reiterated this afternoon by the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development. I think I need not be repetitious and repeat that for a third time.

The question of the permits which, if this legislation is passed by the House, will go with the land as opposed to being attached to the individual, I think has been adequately answered. If one is going to have a procedure by which one applies for the approval of the development of a particular parcel of land, once that procedure has been followed through and the permit has been granted, I can see no sense whatsoever in having that permit expire if the property should pass through to other hands prior to the execution of the development.

**Mr. Renwick:** It's certainly money in the pocket of the person who sells the land.

**Mr. Norton:** As far as I am aware, the purpose of development was never expressed to be primarily the prevention of anyone making any profit. It seems to me that it has something to do with the development of land and the protection of the natural environment. I suggest that by the attitude the hon. members are taking, they are injecting an ideological principle that is not part of the concept of land control and development in this province at the present time.

**Mr. Renwick:** The quality of the development is often and usually determined by the quality of the person who carries out the development.

**Mr. Norton:** That may very well be the case, but neither I nor I think anyone in this side of the House would choose to take those decisions upon ourselves, to decide who is of adequate quality to carry on development in this province. If the member for Riverdale, from his ivory tower, purports to be able to sit here in this House—

**Mr. Renwick:** You do it and you grant the permit for the first issue.

**Mr. Lawlor:** You do it with used car dealers.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Norton:** —and talk about the residents of the Province of Ontario and categorize them according to quality and calibre, then I would like you to be more specific and break down his definitions of quality. As far as I am concerned—

**Mr. Renwick:** I am simply saying that you issue a development permit—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please.

**Mr. Norton:** The residents of the Province of Ontario have equal right to make applica-



tions for such permits, in this particular case to the development authority, and I think it would be a travesty if that authority purported to make those determinations upon its subjective decision about the quality of the individual who is making the application. I think it is a tremendously offensive suggestion for him to even make, especially as a member of a party that purports to be an egalitarian party.

**Mr. Renwick:** Have you watched any of the major developments in Metro Toronto and what has happened to them after they changed hands? Have you watched what has happened to them? They have simply gone downhill. The work was never completed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please. The hon. parliamentary assistant will continue.

**Mr. Norton:** Perhaps I should move on to something less contentious, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Lawlor:** You are being provocative.

**Mr. Norton:** I, like my leader, will not be provocative. I think the other items in the bill have been dealt with pretty adequately in discussion so far. I might add that it is my intention to propose two minor amendments later, and one will deal with a clarification of section 3. We have decided that perhaps it ought to be a little more clearly stated and I will propose that amendment. For that purpose, I will ask that when this bill goes from the House it will go to the committee of the whole House for further deliberation, at which time I will introduce those amendments.

[5:15]

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion is for second reading of Bill 9. Is it the pleasure of the House the motion carry?

All those in favour will say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the "ayes" have it.

Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion for second reading of Bill 9, which was approved on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS
Auld	Bain
Belanger	Bounsall
Birch	Breaugh
Brunelle	Bryden
Campbell	Burr
Cunningham	Davidson
Davis	(Cambridge)
Drea	Deans

AYES	NAYS
Eakins	di Santo
Eaton	Dukszta
Edighoffer	Ferrier
Evans	Foulds
Gaunt	Germa
Good	Godfrey
Gregory	Grande
Grossman	Laughren
Haggerty	Lawlor
Hall	Lewis
Handleman	Lupusella
Henderson	Mackenzie
Hodgson	Makarchuk
Irvine	Philip
Johnson	Renwick
(Wellington- Dufferin-Peel)	Wildman
Jones	Young
Kennedy	Ziemba-25.
Kerr	
Kerrio	
Lane	
Leluk	
MacBeth	
Maeck	
Mancini	
McCague	
McKeough	
McKessock	
McNeil	
Meen	
Miller	
(Haldimand-Norfolk)	
Morrow	
Newman	
(Durham North)	
Newman	
(Windsor-Walkerville)	
Nixon	
Norton	
Parrott	
Reed	
(Halton-Burlington)	
Reid	
(Rainy River)	
Rhodes	
Riddell	
Roy	
Ruston	
Scrivener	
Shore	
Smith	
(Hamilton Mountain)	
Smith	
(Nipissing)	
Smith	
(Hamilton West)	
Snow	
Spence	
Stephenson	
Sweeney	

AYES

Timbrell  
Villeneuve  
Welch  
Wells  
Williams  
Wiseman  
Worton—66.

[5:45]

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 66, the "nays" are 25.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall this bill be ordered for third reading?

Committee of the whole House, is it?

Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my comments earlier I would ask that this bill go to the committee of the whole House.

Agreed.

#### GIFT TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved second reading of Bill 10, an Act to amend the Gift Tax Act, 1972.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, this bill is largely tidying up two or three matters, particularly making certain that the contributions under the Elections Finances Reform Act are not considered gifts. We certainly support that principle. I don't think it was ever intended that they should be but apparently it is necessary to amend the Act to make sure that they are not.

The elimination of the necessity to file returns and pay tax where there is going to be a refund under the Succession Duty Act seems like a logical tidying up. The change in the exemption under section 10, clause 1, subsection 1, mainly limiting it to Ontario residents is also, I think, a desirable change.

We support this bill and I don't think I have any further comments.

Mr. Edighoffer: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a comment or two on this amendment to the Gift Tax Act.

Section 1, of course, is very straightforward as there are very few words added to subsection 1, adding the words "resident of Ontario," which this party is in favour of. This, of course, as I understand the bill, means that the exemption is limited to a donee who is a resident in Ontario only.

I feel that the main purpose of the Act was to keep small business active in Ontario. I understand that this amendment will in no way affect or curtail small business continuing here.

Subsection 2, of course, is just tidying up and making it effective so that contributions under the Election Finances Reform Act will be exempt under the Act. Also, to section 2, this party has no objection as really, I hope, it eliminates some paperwork and inconvenience to the taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker: Do any other hon. members wish to speak to the bill? Does the hon. minister wish to reply?

Hon. Mr. Meen: I must express my appreciation to the hon. members for indicating that both parties support these principles. They have been adequately summarized in the explanatory notes and by the members opposite and I don't think it requires much more from me in unnecessary extension of the debate.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall this bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

#### THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion: Bill 10, An Act to amend the Gift Tax Act, 1972.

#### INCOME TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved second reading of Bill 11, an Act to amend the Income Tax Act.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, this bill is largely bringing in certain sections to make it jibe with the federal Income Tax Act and it is necessary to preserve this uniformity if the federal government is going to collect our income tax for us. Our party has no objections to most of the clauses in this amendment.

The change in section 6(a) regarding the new way of defining how a person qualifies for the no-taxable capacity under the provincial income tax seems like a sensible way of approaching the issue so that we don't have to amend the Act every year and it can be done by regulation. The principle is that people who are exempt under the federal



Act will also be exempt under the provincial Act from any tax. That seems logical to us as well.

While we are discussing this amendment, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if he occasionally communicates with his colleagues in Ottawa who administer and collect this tax for us, regarding their vigilance in seeing that tax avoidance or tax evasion does not occur. I think there is still a great deal of concern about the way people are able to exploit loopholes in the Income Tax Act and more or less destroy its progressivity. I think even though we don't collect it ourselves we should constantly be in consultation with the federal government about its vigilance in enforcing the Act and seeing that there is not tax evasion. It really affects our provincial revenues in the long run, to the extent that when other people evade or avoid tax, the rest of us pay.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Mr. Speaker, I would just observe that one is legal, the other isn't.

**Ms. Bryden:** Correct. You deal with one by enforcing the law and by vigilance and investigation; you deal with the other by amending the law in order to close loopholes that allow legal avoidance but that more or less may offset the objectives of the Act, which are to have a progressive income tax.

I would also like, Mr. Speaker, to make a comment about the election contribution deduction, which is mentioned in passing in this bill so I think I can mention it for a moment. What is happening with our provincial tax credit for political contributions is that the rich are getting it; the poor, particularly the aged poor, are not getting it because it is not allowed until after they take

off all their other provincial tax credits—for property tax, for sales tax, and for being over 65. It seems to me this is very unfair. If an aged person wishes to make a political contribution out of his meagre resources, he gets no tax credit because he probably pays no provincial income tax after all those credits. He may have a small amount of provincial income tax before those credits.

I would like to urge the minister to consider bringing in an amendment so that the political contribution is allowed on the tax payable before those provincial tax credits occur. Certainly, their federal tax contribution is calculated, of course, only on their federal tax payable, because they don't have those kinds of credits at the federal level.

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the hon. member be more than a minute?

**Ms. Bryden:** No, I won't be, Mr. Speaker.

There is one other point in connection with the administration of the political contribution and it is that where a contribution is made by a spouse who is not taxable, apparently the way it is being administered in Ontario there is no tax credit being allowed. Federally, administratively at least—I don't know whether it is legislatively—but administratively they are treating political contributions the same way as they treat health payments and charitable contributions: If the non-taxpaying spouse makes a contribution, the taxpaying spouse is allowed to claim it. I think that should also be provided here in Ontario, if necessary by an amendment.

With those two suggestions, I would like to say that we will support the bill.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

## ERRATA

No.	Page	Col.	Line	Should read:
25	1039	2	6	le 18 décembre, une couple de jours avant
25	1040	1	16	avoir une élection, même si on n'est pas allé
25	1040	1	17	aux urnes depuis plusieurs années.
25	1040	2	16	sirons bien avoir l'opinion du grand public de
25	1040	2	55	continuer à conclure son obligation à bâtir
25	1041	1	21	ventions du gouvernement de 95% à 77%

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Legislative Assembly

# Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

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Thursday, April 8, 1976

Evening Session

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Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

## INCOME TAX AMENDMENT ACT (concluded)

**Mr. Speaker:** When we rose at 6 o'clock we were considering second reading of Bill 11.

**Mr. Edighoffer:** I know the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) wanted to adjourn the debate. Mr. Speaker, I'll just make a few comments on the amendment to the Income Tax Act. It appears to me that this tidies up some of the problems that have shown up in connection with the federal Act.

Section 1, as I read it, adds two sections to the foregoing tax credit section, as it is necessary to make changes due to the federal Act, and I see it is retroactive to Jan. 1, 1974. As I understand it, it avoids double taxation for the citizens of Ontario and permits the individual to compute his foreign tax credit as though the foreign dividend remains part of his income in the year in which it is received.

In section 2, after listening to the budget that was brought down the other night, that amount of \$1,534 sounds very familiar. Basically, all this does is it changes the calculation of tax from the tax payable to the taxable income, which, of course, is the \$1,534.

Section 3, as I see it, repeals and re-enacts subsection 10 of section 6(b) of the Act and is again tied in with the federal Act as it refers to deductions for political contributions and tax credits. It appears that there have been some cases where some individuals have two taxation years in one calendar year and this will, I hope, clarify the relevant taxation year to claim those credits. Basically, it disallows individual claiming of political contribution and tax credits twice in the same calendar year. This, as I say, ties in with the federal Act and we in this party support it.

**Mr. Renwick:** Mr. Speaker, I have only one comment and I hope the minister will respond, particularly on this aspect of it, to

the comments made by my colleague, the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden), with respect to the political contribution tax credit. I relate my remarks particularly to section 3 of the bill which is before us for approval, and I refer specifically to the Ontario tax credit guide issued by the minister for the guidance of persons computing their taxation for the year 1975.

Very briefly, it simply states that the political contribution tax credit can only be claimed by persons who have provincial tax payable in excess of any property, sales or pensioner tax credits to which they may be entitled. Then it goes on to state, a little later in the document:

The total tax credit under the Ontario tax credit system is the sum of the property tax credit, sales tax credit and the pensioner tax credit less two per cent of taxable income, subject to a maximum of \$500 plus allowable political contribution tax credit.

The net effect, as my colleague has pointed out to the minister, is that those persons in the lower income levels of the Province of Ontario, if they make a political contribution out of very limited funds in order to support the party of their choice, usually the Conservative Party, don't have the benefit of that contribution and are not allowed to add it in.

I can sense what the anomaly will be that the minister will produce to me, that because a person has made a contribution to a political campaign, the person shouldn't get a credit for that unless he's got some tax which would otherwise be payable; and that he shouldn't get a refund from the government of an amount which includes, amongst the other credits to which he's entitled, the amount which he contributed subject to the maximum for a political contribution.

But if one looks at it in a rather wider sense of the ability of individuals in lower-income levels to feel that they have a sense of participation in the process of the democratic system by making a political contribution, it does seem to me that it is not an unnecessary burden on the consolidated revenue fund of the Province of Ontario to say

that those persons should be able to take into account that political contribution for the purpose of the tax credit system.

I seems to me that, on balance, it would do more for the democratic process to be able to have that kind of contribution made by persons in those circumstances and that that would far outweigh the public interest of whether or not a few extra dollars did or did not flow into the revenues of the Province of Ontario. We're not talking about very large amounts. We are talking about the participation by people at lower income levels in the political process by being able to make their contributions.

I would ask the minister both to comment upon it now and perhaps give it serious consideration in the future.

**Mr. Sweeney:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up the remarks that were just made and draw to the minister's attention that there is one group of supporters, at least in the most recent election, who I think were hurt rather financially by this, and that's the students.

There were a number of students who contributed \$10, \$15 or \$20 to my own particular campaign with the understanding, granted incorrectly, that in fact they would get a rebate. But because of their financial income level, the fact they're still going to school, it ended up that none of them did. I would most certainly concur with the remarks that were just made by my colleague in the NDP.

I would like the minister, if he could, to speak to that particular group as well.

**Mr. B. Newman:** Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the minister's attention the comments I made in the debate on the Speech from the Throne. I don't intend to read them out now, unless the minister wants me to do so.

**Mr. Deans:** No.

**Mr. B. Newman:** They are very brief. They are not lengthy like some of the comments made by members to my right but they are at least meaty. The comment was made by Mr. Herbert Swanson—

**Mr. Deans:** No.

**Mr. B. Newman:** —that one cent of difference in income between \$1,400 and \$1,401 could adversely affect the individual to the extent of \$28 as far as Ontario's tax credits are concerned. Would the minister mind, if he doesn't reply now, at least reading on

page 972 the comments published in one of the senior citizens' bulletins in my own community?

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps directing my comments to the latter observations first, the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) refers to the problem of the students. I think it is fair to say—and I think they would concur too—that if they looked at the material made available last year it was made quite clear that contributions made to political parties or candidates were deductible from tax. If they had taxable income they would know it; if they didn't have taxable income presumably they would know it. Perhaps they did not realize quite how all this worked when considering the Ontario tax credit programme as well.

The member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. B. Newman) raises the problem—I don't think I have the table with me—of the \$61 notch provision, one might say—or the \$200 notch provision the federal tax Act has where it scales from last year's rate of \$1,400. I don't know whether the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville is listening but I think he might just indicate if he was speaking in terms of the federal notch provision?

**Mr. B. Newman:** Yes, I am.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** At, say, \$1,401 the federal notch provision would relieve against a sudden burden of \$201 of tax, shall we say, or \$202, somewhere in that category and would assess only a \$2 provision for tax.

I have just received a copy of the table. At \$1,400 to \$1,410 the tax under the federal scheme is \$2. Under our own, we have a relief against the amount of relative tax at 30.5 per cent of that figure which comes out at \$61; when you then go to \$1,400 to \$1,410 the tax becomes \$61.60. It isn't \$1.60; it is \$61.60.

We have not built a notch provision into our Act. I don't know whether it is practical. It may be if they have this kind of scheme. I had this drawn to my attention just the other day and it could be that it stems from the same article to which the hon. member referred. I would like to take a look at that.

It is possible that we could have, in effect, the equivalent of a notch provision—a tapering effect, not quite the notch provision lawyers talk about in taxing statutes but something analogous to it so that we don't develop that abrupt assessment when you just drop over the line.



**Mr. B. Newman:** On page 972 of *Hansard*, I read the comments that were published in the senior citizens' bulletin so the minister can see them just as they were published.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** My staff had brought this to my attention and we will take a look at it in conjunction with Treasury to see if there is something of a practical standpoint which can be developed.

The member for Beaches-Woodbine raised three points and I think they were pretty articulately underscored by the member for Riverdale. I would like to dwell on those if I might for a moment or so.

As I understood her question, she wants political contributions to be deductible from the Ontario tax payable before the reduction of the tax payable by any amount of the Ontario tax credits that might be forthcoming. That's sort of the point she is making. The thing that concerns me, and I had the opportunity over the dinner hour to reflect on this, is that in effect—and I think the member for Riverdale anticipated this—the province would wind up returning to the taxpayer the total amount or maybe 75 per cent of the amount the taxpayer had made by way of political contribution, over and above the tax credits that taxpayer recovered.

[8:15]

We haven't seen fit to go that far because it seemed to us that the taxpayer would make a political contribution roughly in line with his net tax payable after these various credits that are made available to him under the Ontario tax credit programme. One must recognize that this is the first year this has been in effect and obviously we have to look at a year of results and see how it works. We had to work this out with the federal government.

We have followed in our section 4(a), introduced into the Income Tax Act last year, with any *mutatis mutandis* as might be required, the federal provision along the same lines, and on that basis the federal government was prepared to administer that part of it for us. It certainly is not something we would cast aside without some further look, but to tell the truth, I do see some inherent weaknesses in trying to do this. I could imagine for one thing that one would have to put a top limit on the amount of any such contribution, relative to tax payable, in order to avoid any significant abuse of that system. But that's the sort of thing where I think we would have to take a look at it, talk to the federal government and see

how it felt about administering the system on that basis.

The member for Beaches-Woodbine also asked about interspousal transfers of receipts for things such as political contributions where the receipt is in the name of the wife but it's the husband who is the taxpayer filing the return. She indicated that she thought the federal Act was being administered differently from ours. Ours is being administered by the federal people, and so I suppose implicitly she's saying that both our Acts, which read essentially the same way, are being administered differently from the way in which they read.

That's not my understanding. I had a chance to check this out over the dinner hour as well. As I understand it, they do follow the Act though, I am told, there's a certain amount of flexibility and a certain amount of latitude particularly—one might call it tolerance. I am advised engineers would call this a form of manufacturing or operational tolerance, in this case, if amounts were small it is possible that, rather than try to go back and disallow and have all the correspondence inherent in a disallowance and the advice of the re-assessment, it's probably simpler and a whole of a lot cheaper simply to wink at a small variance of that sort. But in anything of substance, I am advised by my staff that the Act is followed. Again we have had to be consistent with the federal section in this application.

The member for Beaches-Woodbine also asked me if my ministry does communicate with the federal government in connection with general vigilance, I suppose, over the accounts, their post-audits and general checking. The answer is "yes." We have our auditors in the retail sales tax field, the gasoline tax field and the Ontario corporation tax audit field. Our field auditors and inspectors not infrequently turn up items that might lead us to believe there was some reason for taking a look at the income tax return for that taxpayer, and so we do have an exchange of information when something of that sort shows up. In the federal scene with an income tax return, we would hear about it so that we might then be prompted to take a look at some corporation that that taxpayer was involved with or some other activities that might look to be interesting. There is a mutual exchange between our administrations at the federal and at the provincial level.

**Mr. Renwick:** Under legal authority, I trust.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** Yes, there is legal authority for that. I think the hon. members have covered the basic points in this bill and I don't need to labour it. I must say it doesn't exactly take a Philadelphia lawyer to understand the explanatory material, but almost.

**Mr. Renwick:** A lot of people in Riverdale will be pleased with section 1. They have a lot of foreign income, a lot of foreign tax credit.

**Hon. Mr. Meen:** I am pleased to hear that. In any event, I was pleased to hear that the opposition parties support the principles of this bill and I think I might wind up my comments on that note.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

### THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion: Bill 11, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act.

### EMERGENCY MEASURES REPEAL ACT

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth** moved second reading of Bill 12, An Act to repeal the Emergency Measures Act.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** If I may, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say a few words first by way of introduction.

**Mr. Deans:** You ought to be ashamed; I think you should defend yourself.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** The hon. member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans) suggests I should be ashamed of myself in connection with this bill. No, I'm not ashamed of myself but it is with some misgivings that I move the demise of what I think has been a good organization, one that has perhaps given better service than some members of the public realize.

**Mr. Deans:** Why are you burying it?

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** In fact, the purpose of this bill is to bring the law into step with what is actual fact. And, as the hon. members know, there was limited funding for this EMO to the end of 1975 from provincial sources and, as was announced last spring, that financing would be terminated at the end of 1975.

Interjection.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** It's something that the House already knows about, and the purpose of taking the bill off the statute books—

**Mr. Lawlor:** You're not safe any more. You haven't got a bunker to go to.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** That was one of the problems: The people of this province really didn't think bunkers were very practical. As you recall, Mr. Speaker, some years ago the federal government urged the citizens of the country to establish their own bunkers and take some precautions in case of atomic attack.

**Mr. Deans:** Why don't you talk about what the EMO really did?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member may enter the debate later. Thank you.

**Mr. Deans:** I intend to.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, I should not be distracted so easily. I started off on one venture, then I tried to answer the member for Wentworth, and then I tried to answer the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor)—

**Mr. Ruston:** You're not supposed to listen to interjections.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** As the one in charge of emergency measures, I shouldn't be so easily put off course; so I'll come back to what I was saying, sir, and say that we know that the funding of this was terminated at the end of the year and we're simply bringing the law into step with facts.

The reason, of course, for doing that is the original Emergency Measures Act required municipalities to do certain things; they had to have a plan—or that was the suggestion—and certain responsibilities were put on the municipalities' shoulders. Therefore, when we removed our funding, it was thought that we should also remove the responsibility we had placed on their shoulders. That is the purpose of what we're doing today in taking the bill off the statute books.

I started to say that I had some misgivings, simply because in 1963 and 1964 I was a member of the Metropolitan Toronto EMO committee and I was always amazed at the work that they were able to do in cases where they got very little support from the public.

**Mr. Deans:** That's why I asked, aren't you ashamed of yourself?



**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** No, because, as I say, it got very little support from the public of this province and from the public of this country.

**Mr. Deans:** It doesn't need support.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** I was amazed at the esprit de corps that so many of the Emergency Measures Organizations had during a time when they were ridiculed by so many of the press and so many of the public. They found useful jobs to do; I know the Metropolitan Toronto people were the ones who did a good job on the emergency ambulance service. I know that the Hamilton group also served in a very commendable way, as did many of the other organizations across the province—but with very little support from the public and, I might say, really with very little support from the opposition members of this House.

**Mr. Deans:** Not so.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** There may be individual exceptions but for a number of years I remember there used to be an annual motion that the funds allotted to EMO should be reduced to \$1.

**Mr. Deans:** That was before your time.

**Mr. Nixon:** Supported by the NDP. They all voted for it.

**Mr. Martel:** No.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** I think that in most cases the NDP supported that motion which didn't originate with them. This is the kind of lack of support that it got from the public in general. Recognizing that there were—

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** When the opposition has decided whether its members were for or against EMO, I will carry on.

Recognizing that there was very little support, the Treasurer of this province (Mr. McKeough) and the government decided the money could best be spent in some other way where it would have the support of the public.

It's not that the services are not now available; they are there in one form or another. But the real gist of what we have done is, instead of having people stand by for emergencies which a lot of people didn't think would happen, such as atomic warfare or something of that nature, we have put them into positions where they are serving in active capacities where emergencies do

take place on a daily basis. Many of these people are presently being used in ambulance services on a day-by-day basis where, I think, there is more satisfaction from the job, and in fire departments and in various services of this nature—

**Mr. Wildman:** There are no capital grants for equipment for volunteer fire departments.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** —where they are still giving an emergency service on a day-by-day basis instead of sitting by waiting for something which the majority of the public felt there was really little point in providing for.

I think most members of the public thought there was little point in making provision for atomic warfare and so much of the atmosphere around EMO seemed to focus on this purpose. I suppose it was the reason for their original being but certainly, subsequent to that, many other purposes evolved which I think were worthwhile but which did not catch the support of the general public. I say the work that EMO used to do is still being provided for, under the lead ministry concept and the OPP is doing the co-ordination of emergency work.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** They will if necessary and there are many volunteers across this province who will do just the same thing.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member may enter the debate later.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, I say the services are still there. The OPP is co-ordinating them; the various ministries are responsible for them under what we call the lead ministry concept.

Environment is to look after spills of chemicals, oil or other contaminations of toxics or toxic agents; gas or oil pipeline breaks. Health is responsible for epidemics; nuclear reactor accidents with off-site effects; heavy water plant accidents with off-site effects. Natural Resources is looking after floods and forest fires. The Solicitor General is responsible for major air crashes or other peacetime emergencies or war emergencies.

Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible, of course, for the co-ordination of the funding of all of these various projects. Chief Inspector Fullerton of the OPP is co-ordinating it at that level.

I say the people of the province are still protected in case of emergency. Although it is with some regret that I see the passing of EMO, and I pay tribute to all of those who served in it, I think it is necessary to update the law and bring it in step with facts as they presently exist.

**Mr. Davidson:** You don't believe that.

**Mr. Breaugh:** Mr. Speaker, we will not be supporting this particular bill.

**Mr. Nixon:** That's a change in your position from the last time it was raised.

**Mr. Breaugh:** Members for Oshawa, I have just been informed, have a great tradition of being in support of the Emergency Measures Organization and never in this House have they voted against it.

**Mr. Martel:** We will always be in support of it.

**Mr. Breaugh:** I am trying to maintain that kind of tradition, among others.

**Mr. Deans:** Now we have some influence around here.

**Mr. Breaugh:** I suppose, as the minister has just put it to us, this is not much more than an obituary notice. According to the minister and, I suppose, some people, this organization has ceased to function. In his ministry, the branch rather dissolved in itself in December last year and, I suppose, many people regard this as being an unnecessary organization. I suppose we are all aware too of some shortcomings and the kind of references to bomb shelter brigades that were made, and that there really was not at any time the kind of financial support for this organization that it probably should have had.  
[8:30]

Recognizing some shortcomings that were there, let's ask ourselves a rather interesting question, and I think an important one: What's in its place? That really is not known, apart from a rather swift list that the minister just read out to us, and something called a lead ministry concept which I'm not terribly sure that I understand, and some reference to the OPP making certain decisions and, of course, the fact that in certain municipalities the Emergency Measures Organization still does exist and still does operate supported by the municipality. I think there are some shortcomings there. Let me run through some of those very quickly.

In terms of public plans, I'm not terribly sure the province is covered by that kind of

scheme at all, and certainly if they are supposed to be public plans I'm well aware that the public doesn't know about them. If there are areas in Ontario, and there seem to be more and more these days, where a flood occurs, who looks after that? Supposedly Natural Resources has a master plan, but in the floods that we have seen in the last few years that doesn't exactly work all that smoothly. There really isn't that great an organization, and since I spent some time working with conservation authorities, I certainly know they don't have the staff to implement it and they don't really have that kind of thoroughness of planning one would like.

In terms of electrical shortages—and we've seen a number of occasions where that has happened in many areas, with wind storms and various other problems in electrical supply systems which sometimes cause rather drastic situations—who looks after that particular one? In my area there is an interesting angle to that, because there is a nuclear station at Pickering. We are told there is an emergency plan for Pickering station, but no one in the area really knows about it and the Ontario Hydro personnel who run the nuclear station at Pickering really don't want to discuss that in particular.

In terms of road accidents, I suppose one might make the argument that the OPP would be able to cover that, or the local municipal police force would do that, except that there are certainly occasions when we have had rather massive accidents in Ontario, closing down roads, and I'm not terribly sure I'm all that pleased that there really was a sufficient organization to deal with that as an emergency. It took some time to clear it up. There were some difficulties. I'm not terribly sure that we're all that well covered.

Let me move to an area I think a few years ago probably would have been an area which would have caused a little guffawing around the place, and that is a radioactive scare. I would tend to think that even in this House there might have been the odd chuckle when people representing the kind of things that Emergency Measures Organizations did raised that question in the House. People would say: "That's not going to happen in Ontario. That never happens in Canada. It's never been known to happen."

Let's take a look at what happened in Port Hope. Perhaps it doesn't reach an emergency scale, but it certainly did for a while when there were a number of federal agencies and provincial agencies all scurrying around trying to cover their tracks rather nicely. No-



body was particularly geared to look after the situation at all. Whether that constitutes an emergency or not, I suppose, is open to some discussion, but certainly what isn't open to discussion is that there was no mechanism in place to deal with that particular situation.

Even in a simple thing like carrying a load of dirt in that area, which was later identified in the public press as being radioactive, when the dirt fell off the truck on to the road action was required. It really wasn't much. The OPP were there, it's true; and they closed off the road, it's true; and after about 18 hours they managed to clean it up and move is out. The point is there was no mechanism in place to look after that kind of situation.

I think we could probably say that, in terms of fire or an explosion in an urban centre, there probably are mechanisms there now, through the fire department in co-operation with the police department, to look after that particular situation; but there are many places in Ontario where that kind of service is not available, and we don't have to go into the far north, although that's perhaps the classic case. One can move two miles from where I live and find a municipality in the region of Durham that really doesn't have that sophisticated firefighting system, with emergency equipment, that's in the city of Oshawa.

Although there are some agreements to move back and forth, they are for very specific things and I'm sure if there were an emergency the people wouldn't run out to get into some kind of agreement signed for starters, but the fact is that in many places in Ontario there just is not the equipment in place, nor the people trained; nor, perhaps what's even more important, the people to make decisions.

I want to go to a very simple idea, that is how does the public deal with all of this? What do they do when an emergency erupts? Who do they call? In Ontario we haven't even moved yet to that very simple system of phoning one telephone number, 911, when an emergency occurs.

Many people simply do not have in their wallet or on the front of their phone book, or written on their kitchen wall, the number of the police station, the fire station or the local hospital. They spend some time fumbling around and looking that up. There are difficulties in this. There is no one number to call when there is an emergency. The whole problem about informing the public of what to do in an emergency hasn't really been looked at at all.

For example, how many people in the public at large are aware of the lead ministry concept? I suspect the members of this House couldn't give us much of an explanation as to what that is and how it works in each particular area and whom they would call to get something done. I don't think the public at large knows that at all. In terms of supplies and materials, which traditionally have been a problem with the Emergency Measures Organization because they didn't have much money of their own, they had to rely on other agencies—and that sometimes posed a problem—I suspect that problem is still there. I still suspect in cases of emergency there are difficulties in obtaining supplies, and in getting them to the site on time, quickly and efficiently. I really suspect that is a major problem.

The reason I keep using the word "suspect" is that we do not know, as members of the public, or even as members of this House. We don't have that written down. We don't have that information at our fingertips. I suppose the minister can supply us with some of the detail, but that would do none of us any good if we were in an emergency anywhere, because it is rather awkward to have to call the Solicitor General first to get that kind of information, and then find what to do about it locally.

In terms of manpower, one of the interesting things I saw recently was an indication of some flooding in the Ottawa area. I suppose one of the arguments that would be used is that in the final analysis one would always call out the army. What I thought was very nice about this particular example is that the flooding occurred overnight. In the morning the people all got together, got the boats out and sorted themselves out. In the afternoon, after everybody was safe and sound, up rolled the Canadian Army with their trucks, their boats and their equipment. Everybody was safe and the emergency was handled at that point. So they spent the afternoon paddling around, watching the dogs and seeing what was going on.

**Mr. Martel:** Pierre was there.

**Mr. Breaugh:** They then packed up and went home because they had to be back at the base that night. They had no place to stay.

**Mr. Nixon:** They are very good at apprehended insurrection.

**Mr. Martel:** Pierre was there, with his helicopter.

**Mr. Samis:** What did they apprehend?

**Mr. Breaugh:** That is not an emergency, that is a disaster; we'll make that distinction now.

**Mr. Martel:** One of these days they are coming to your place, to the barbecue.

**Mr. Nixon:** Like the Prime Minister, in fine style.

Interjections.

**Mr. Breaugh:** One of the things that has happened is that the whole cost of this particular operation in many instances has been shifted to the municipal level. And frankly, it's one more thing they don't need. It's one more expense they really can't stand. I find some difficulty in trying to justify to them that they should share the cost of that particular operation.

Let me move very quickly to this idea of a lead ministry concept and what it will do in a case of an emergency. First of all, I doubt the public at large in Ontario knows which are the lead ministries, or where they are or how to get hold of them; what the telephone numbers are or whom to call when one gets there. Certainly if an emergency occurred and you had to go through the kind of rigmarole and buck-passing that any member of this House goes through in contacting any one of the ministries to get an answer about anything, if you had to go through that same process when an emergency occurred you could kiss us all goodbye.

Ask any member of the public about trying to deal with the bureaucracy here at Queen's Park; whether it's here, physically, around this area, or whether it happens to have been physically moved out to some other area of the province. I think you will find they are not too happy with that kind of a communication system. That poses some rather difficult problems for them.

One simple thing that I suppose is constantly difficult when one is trying to organize on a large scale, as the ministry was, is to keep the information updated.

For example, when I was on the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority someone put my name on a list that I think is used for a thing called the flood emergency plan. If I recall correctly—and this is the extent of it—one day there arrived in the mail a list of all the people in Ontario who were chairmen or vice-chairmen or held some position in the conservation authorities. It said at the top of it that in case of a flood this

is the communication system they will use. That's all it said. That's all the work that was done, simply a list circulated around Ontario.

Interestingly enough, though I am not sure whether it is still there, last year when I was no longer on the conservation authority, my telephone number was still one of the emergency numbers to call. That kind of updating of information on a large scale, such as you're suggesting through the ministries, is going to be a continuing problem. It was not a problem when Emergency Measures Organizations functioned in local municipalities; at least there was one person to know, and they knew one another in their various agencies locally, that's the key point.

So what I'm trying to say is that the replacement of that agency is not there, but the need is still there. Perhaps it should have been refined, perhaps it should have been financed in a different way and perhaps they should have been given all kinds of different directions; but they had a function in the community and that function is a necessary one. We frankly do not see how it will be carried out in an emergency these days.

We recognize that in the financing—particularly if municipalities want to carry this through on their own, and they either do that through maintaining some kind of Emergency Measures Organization or doing it through a local firefighting service or through a local policing service—they still bear the cost of that. Ontario is not helping very much with that particular kind of specialized service other than the normal grants they would give as general-purpose grants in a municipality or for police costs.

Are they really using all of the resources that are available? By that I mean the human resources as well as sandbags and ladders and rubber boots. I don't think they really are. I think the information flow is there in terms of a community relating to itself in some kind of a disaster situation. I really can't see that.

I think the credibility of the ministries, all of them, is certainly at a rather low ebb in the Province of Ontario. Certainly in a disaster situation or an emergency situation of any kind, I would hate to have to call on the ministries to provide me with some kind of service. I frankly don't see them moving that well or that swiftly; or the ones that are working in the field are a little on the short side these days because of the budget cut-backs.

The last point I want to make is that these little organizations, despite their many faults,



really were one of the mainstays in Ontario in terms of the role that volunteers play in serving the public. I admit, quite frankly, that perhaps they were a little on the slim side when it came to organizational power or financial power, but they did give a great many volunteer agencies in a community a chance to play a role and it was a reciprocal agreement.

I want to mention a couple of them. There are in my riding, and I suspect it's true across Ontario, a number of little amateur radio clubs, some of which are rather large in nature and some are just a very few people. However they performed a service, and they were brought together and identified by the Emergency Measures Organization. In return for that they got some small area for storage and for meetings and things like that. Not very much, certainly not very costly, but in terms of providing a service to the public there was no question that they did.

They are still there, but I would imagine they would have some difficulty relating to any ministry or to any police force, as opposed to working with local organizations, where in many cases they sat on the executive or they at least knew the one person who was in charge or the co-ordinator of the Emergency Measures Organization.

There are a number of other groups, like St. John Ambulance, with which I imagine we are all familiar. In my riding they worked very closely with Emergency Measures as well, and in return for that they got some storage space, for trucks and equipment, and some areas they could use to train personnel and to conduct courses and work out. They are having difficulty surviving on their own, because there really is no longer much funding for them as a local unit. Emergency Measures was one last little touchstone they had to work in that community.

One of the things I think is going to happen—the minister made reference to volunteer groups—I think when emergencies happen—and they will happen; they may not be atomic bombs but there will be a number of other things happen—you will find that many of the volunteer agencies that you wanted, and traditionally used, may find themselves hard pressed to give you that service. In fact a number of them may be out of business because that Emergency Measures Organization is no longer there to co-ordinate, to give a little financial support, in some cases just to give a little moral support to that particular specialized group of people.

Mr. Speaker, in the interest of public safety, if you like, but frankly because we don't see any viable replacement for that service at all; and recognizing there were some shortcomings in the Emergency Measures Organizations, but not seeing any viable replacement, and certainly as members of this House and as members of the public at large not being able to identify what that replacement is, we cannot support this bill.

[8:45]

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add a few comments to Bill 12, An Act to dissolve the Emergency Measures Organizations in the Province of Ontario; and unlike the minister, I have some misgivings about it too. I was a member of the Emergency Measures Organization in the former county of Welland and I can recall, in my days in the county council, I wasn't too happy with the system and the setup of the emergency measures group. I couldn't quite understand the purpose of it, but after I was appointed to the committee I found out the purpose of such an organization, and that was to act in case of any emergency. It was not just a matter of dealing with a national disaster or national warning system throughout Canada. To this day, I don't know whether that alarm system is workable or not. I haven't heard the siren go off in any community. I believe it did happen on one occasion; and that caused some commotion throughout the community but many of the citizens couldn't quite understand what the sirens were all about.

As I said, I have misgivings about it and I'm surprised the minister hasn't given more consideration to this. I don't know if he has any plan now in case of a disaster. I think of just a couple of weeks ago in the Erie riding, along the lakeshore of Lake Erie, when they had that severe ice storm. It was almost complete chaos. Emergency Measures was there, still in the region, but there was no direction on an emergency plan or a disaster plan in that area. I can say this much, they had a good plan there at one time. They had somebody there to give direction to it.

You can go back to that area, Mr. Speaker, and look at it. It took them about a week to 10 days to get back to normal functioning in the area, for hydro and telephone service. I can say this much, when we lose those two services there we even lose fire protection services too, because many of these areas depend on radio communications.

I can recall a place where a home was burned completely to the ground and there was no way of getting the alarm into the

fire department. When we have this lack of communications and a power failure like that, you know, it's hard to understand why the minister would be moving in this direction at this time.

Emergency Measures had a good warning system in the Niagara district. They had their own portable power unit there, and standby units for electricity, that could send out the warning throughout the different communities in the region. I don't know what they're going to do with all this equipment. Who's going to man it now? I think almost every municipality had a system whereby they could be in contact at all times, whether there was a power failure or not; I just don't know what they're going to do with all this equipment.

For example, take flooding. The minister says we can refer it to the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the good Lord knows what type of a programme they have. I'm not too happy with some of the action that has been taken in the past in the Province of Ontario. There's been serious flooding in the Brantford area along the Grand River, and in the Galt area. If we have a plan, where is it? The minister mentions the Ontario Provincial Police providing services in a disaster plan. I think the Ontario Provincial Police have perhaps a more important job, and that is to get on with the crime problem in the Province of Ontario, not to deal with emergency measures. When I look at the Ontario Provincial Police, when I find that it's phasing out certain facilities in the Erie riding, and I can think of the one in Fort Erie, moving them some 25 or 30 miles from that particular area, I wouldn't want to depend upon it for emergency aid at any time.

The previous speaker mentioned the fire departments in the area, and I think the fire services in the Niagara Peninsula are perhaps among the best. They do have what they call mutual aid services, whereby they can call from one department to the other, and one municipality to the other municipality; it works very well. I say this much of the fire services, they have good and capable personnel. In case of any emergency, the first place the citizen turns to is the fire department. I don't care if it's an accident on a highway, the fire department is called first in any emergency.

**An hon. member:** We don't need an EMO.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Somebody says we don't need an EMO. That's quite right.

**Mr. Deans:** Who said that?

**Mr. Haggerty:** Perhaps we don't, but we do need a master emergency plan in the Province of Ontario. Whether or not it is regionalized, it should be set up by regions; and I suggest that there must be funding from the provincial government to make sure that this plan is maintained throughout a region.

I can cite other areas that perhaps could come under a disaster plan. I cited two areas, the floods and the ice storm, and perhaps there are others too. But to depend upon four or five different branches of the government—you can go back and find this was one of the failures of the Emergency Measures Organization. If you wanted to take a piece of equipment outside of that hall, you had to call somebody here in Toronto before you could do it.

I will tell you this much, Mr. Speaker, that equipment could have been used on many occasions throughout the regional municipality of Niagara. Not in large disasters but in certain areas that require special equipment. There were a number of persons who were concerned and took an interest in emergency measures; they were citizens who perhaps were well qualified by training for a disaster and they could have been used almost any place in the region. There are a number of good persons there who are qualified to provide assistance in a disaster and I think in a sense the government is discouraging this type of citizen involvement.

To go back and say that we are going to depend upon the OPP, I think their job is to fight crime in the Province of Ontario. I think the Minister of Natural Resources has all he can do at the present time, and when it comes to flood programmes I don't think they have one here. I suggest to the minister if he is serious about withdrawing these services that he should contact in particular the former director of emergency measures in the Niagara Peninsula, Major Rhodes, who is very capable, and get hold of the plan he has for that area, because it is an exceptionally good plan for any disaster.

The previous member spoke about the possibility of a nuclear disaster here in the Province of Ontario, and when we do have such nuclear hydro plants, there is a high risk. An accident could happen almost any time. It's like he says, there are provisions within that particular plant, but outside of that area who knows what programme is available if the disaster does occur? There is nothing.

I suggest to the minister, and to the members of the House, that I just wouldn't want to see the services pulled out just like



that without further consideration being given to a plan to provide some assistance to the citizens of the Province of Ontario in any disaster. When you have pipelines that are buried in the ground, particularly those for gas that's under high pressure, I suppose one of those lines could blow up and that could blow up almost the Province of Ontario with it. There may be safety regulators there but these things can fail too.

I want to direct a question to the minister at this time. What's he going to do with the cabinet quarters up at Camp Borden? Are we going to have all the hot lines going to that area again? I don't know if the minister has ever attended that facility up there at Camp Borden, I don't think he or any of the cabinet has, but I understand it is still a—

**Mr. B. Newman:** That's where they hold their meetings regularly.

Interjections.

**Mr. Haggerty:** George; you have, have you?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Morty's hideaway?

**Mr. Nixon:** They've moved it to the Burlington golf club.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Well, the facilities are still there and I was just wondering perhaps—

**Mr. Deans:** What good would you be in a disaster, George?

**Mr. Haggerty:** —if the minister had been up in that area to see what is available through that central control centre—and perhaps—

Interjections.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Maybe the minister, as close as he lives to Toronto—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I can't hear the hon. member for Erie.

**Mr. Deans:** I can hear him.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is another control centre, I believe, located at Oakville; whether that is going to be the quarters the minister is going to operate out of, I don't know. That is manned by the federal government, by the armed forces; and whether that will be part of it or not I don't know.

I think there is much to be considered in this particular bill. Although it may be a savings of—what?—\$3 million or \$4 million, it's peanuts, I guess, in the long run. Hopefully the minister will give consideration to having a disaster plan in the Province of

Ontario and we will have some direction from the minister and from the staff that is going to be appointed to be in charge of this thing; so that people are not going to be running around looking for help when there is nobody there to answer anything. I suggest the minister should be looking to set up regions throughout the Province of Ontario where somebody in that particular area is going to give some direction to all the communities so there is going to be a head to take orders, and give orders in a particular disaster situation in that particular area.

That is about all I have to say to this particular bill, but I have some reservations about withdrawing this particular service.

**Mr. Martel:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am sure you recognize the problem I am going to speak about with respect to unorganized townships, as you and I suffer this problem in many of the areas we represent, where there are unorganized townships without anyone to provide any type of assistance at any time.

First of all, let me make it abundantly clear that I opposed the EMO for some time, based on the traditional lines and tasks which had been allocated to EMO, and that was fighting nuclear wars or preparing for nuclear wars. In the area I come from, within the last two years I have spent some time with the EMO officer seeing what in fact he was trying to do. Being an old Tory, he came to Toronto and met with the ministers responsible for this Act to indicate that changes had to be made in the direction that EMO was going.

One of his major concerns, and certainly a major concern to all of us in the north, is the unorganized township and who looks after it in the event of fire, whether it be in a home or in the unorganized community. We have Natural Resources, which is prepared at this time to fight bush fires. But for those many communities in northern Ontario which do not have any type of government, there is nothing, even to this date, to assist in providing some force with which to fight fires. There is no grant structure allowed for those municipalities to purchase equipment to fight fires. Despite repeated letters to this government, from members on this side of the House at least, and I am sure from the members representing the other political parties in northern Ontario, this government has not moved one jot to help those unorganized communities.

I can recall watching a number of houses burning in northern Ontario without any possibility of salvaging anything. In fact I can recall a school catching fire, and if it hadn't been for the city of Sudbury firefighting equipment getting down to that school in a little township called Broder-Dill, the school would have been destroyed. This is not unnatural.

I can take you, Mr. Speaker, into the riding which I represent, where even today if a fire were to occur in such small municipalities as Estaire, Awrey township or Alban-Bigwood, you would watch a school disappear before your eyes with no potential, no possibility, of even trying to save anything with respect to that facility into which government has pumped considerable money in the school plant itself.

Despite repeated petitions, the closest we got to any assistance was two years ago when the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs introduced Bill 102 respecting the unorganized townships. It was an ill-conceived piece of legislation, and when the various unorganized communities came to meet with ministry officials the ministry then realized what kind of monster it had turned loose in that bill and withdrew the bill.

[9:00]

Again, like EMO, the government has not put anything in place of Bill 102 so that we can in fact protect those communities from any type of emergency. It doesn't necessarily have to be a fire; it could well be flooding. There is nothing there, nothing in any piece of legislation to protect those municipalities, and in particular the lives of the people in those municipalities.

When the minister makes reference to some lead group in some ministry, I don't know what in God's name he's talking about. I want to tell the minister that as lately as last week I got a phone call from the municipality of Wahnapiatae, which is part of the regional municipality of Sudbury, about flooding in that great plain area about which I had warned the ministry when they allowed houses to be built in a development called Rockview Estates. I tried to get the ministry to stop them. But, as I say, there was flooding there last week, and the people immediately started to phone. They phoned Nickel Centre, which this previously unorganized community is now in. The staff at Nickel Centre didn't know what to do, so they phoned the regional municipality of Sudbury. The regional municipality of Sudbury couldn't

tell them what to do, so they turned around and ultimately phoned me and I gave them a list of names of people to start with.

**Mr. Deans:** You told them what to do, didn't you, Elie?

**Mr. Martel:** I told them what they had to do—to check with the Sudbury and district health unit and so on—but the point is there was nothing there for that organized community. They don't know where to go in the event of an emergency. I ask the minister, can he imagine what it's like if you're in an unorganized township, where you don't have a council, you don't have any type of municipal government, you don't have anybody who has any type of influence to make any decision?

**Mr. Haggerty:** They promised that two years ago, though, Elie.

**Mr. Martel:** Two years ago, and now they've withdrawn the bill.

What do those communities do in the event of a fire? What do they do in the event of flooding? What do they do in the event of any type of emergency?

If there's a fire, the Ministry of Natural Resources has told me: "Well, if we have equipment available, we'll send it in." But, unfortunately, all of the equipment is tied up in winter; it's being repaired for the following season. So they stand by and watch a home, a store or a business community being destroyed.

The government has no plans, and the closest it came was two years ago. The only thing that might have helped would have been if the minister had accepted some of the proposals put forward by the EMO officer from Sudbury as it represents my area. My colleague knows him well—

**Mr. Germa:** He was a good Tory.

**Mr. Martel:** He came here and proposed a whole series of ideas. He knew where boats were in the event of floods. He knew where radios were in the event of some type of disaster.

I tell the minister there was a hurricane about a year and a half ago; it hit a little community called Alban. Six months of exchange of correspondence between the Premier (Mr. Davis) and myself did not lead to any resolution of their difficulties. There was no one in Alban who could even help those people, because there is no type of govern-



ment there and this government has no plan to put anything into effect.

When the minister rises to answer tonight, I don't think he can simply slough it off, as this government has done for lo these many years with unorganized townships. The day of reckoning is coming. We simply cannot allow one ministry, the Ministry of Natural Resources, to sell Crown land, where ultimately small settlements develop. We can no longer allow the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to provide access to highways and then say we have no responsibility except to collect taxes. That's the sole responsibility the government has in these unorganized townships—and the north has hundreds of them, some very small, some not so small.

I remind the minister that when we brought the regional municipality of Sudbury into being, that bill took in one unorganized township which had about 3,000 people in it. A place like Bigwood-Alban has maybe 800 or 900 people.

My colleague, the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), has places like Gogama, and this government stands well condemned there. On one side of the track we have the Ministry of Natural Resources with water with which to fight a fire, and where the ministry people live; on the other side of the track they don't even have drinking water. Well I shouldn't say that, the former Minister of the Environment provided one tap for the whole municipality of Gogama. What?

**Hon. Mr. Kerr:** Next is the communal system.

**Mr. Martel:** That's right, the communal system, yes; one tap for the whole community. But they pay their tax. The water in that community has been ravaged by a couple of gasoline stations which had leaks.

We can go right across the north; I am sure my friend, the Deputy Speaker, could, if he were in my position, indicate a great number of these communities.

**Mr. Speaker:** I must remind the hon. member that this Bill 12 is an Act to repeal the Emergency Measures Organization, which was never responsible for any of the things you are mentioning. So if you would address yourself to the principle of this bill, it would be appreciated.

**Mr. Martel:** Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect, any bill allows me to speak not only to what's in the bill, but what, in fact, is lacking from the bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is not so.

**Mr. Martel:** That is right.

**Mr. Roy:** It is not so.

**Mr. Martel:** I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that those communities which you represent, which do not have services with which to combat natural emergencies, will not in fact have anything to take the place of what might have been there.

**Mr. Good:** We never had EMO either.

**Mr. Martel:** If you didn't have EMO I guess it's because you come from north-western Ontario. That's distinct from the rest of northern Ontario, as you westerners like to draw to our attention.

I simply say to the minister that somehow his government must now come up with some type of procedure with which to protect people in those areas where, in fact, it has withdrawn the only service they had available to them.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Wentworth.

**Mr. Deans:** Not interested in this, eh?

**Mr. Renwick:** They are. They want to wait us out, so they will be the last speakers.

**Mr. Deans:** They want to wait us out? They will never wait us out.

I was interested in the comments of the minister, who indicated that one of the reasons the Act was being repealed was because it didn't have public support. I want to tell this government that its recent OHIP increase doesn't have public support.

**Mr. Martel:** Right on.

**Mr. Deans:** And I want to tell it that its implementation of regional government across this province didn't have public support.

**Mr. Mancini:** You guys supported it.

**Mr. Deans:** We did not. No, we did not, my friend; and when you have been here long enough to remember, you will understand that.

**Mr. Norton:** The voice of experience.

**Mr. Deans:** If you last that long. The interesting thing about the government is that public support is only a consideration when it happens to be in its favour. The government never seems to address itself to the need. I want to tell them more, while we

have the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) sitting here—the hospital cuts don't have public support.

**Mr. Norton:** Oh yes they have.

**Mr. Deans:** So don't tell me that one of the reasons they are withdrawing this particular piece of legislation is because this whole operation, the Emergency Measures Organization, didn't have public support; because that's a lot of nonsense.

It's whether or not it performed a useful service that matters to the people of the Province of Ontario.

**Mr. Norton:** You don't even have your poll results yet on that one. You don't know whether it has public support or not.

**Mr. Deans:** I don't require poll results. I don't hold elections on the basis of whether people want them or not.

**Mr. Norton:** How do you get your information about who is supporting what?

**Mr. Martel:** The Premier (Mr. Davis) will call an election when he wants it.

**Mr. Deans:** I will tell you tomorrow, okay?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Will the hon. member for Wentworth direct his remarks through the Chair and ignore the interjections.

**Mr. Deans:** How can I ignore him; it is the first time he has spoken.

**Mr. Speaker:** Well, you try.

**Mr. Deans:** Anyway, I want to suggest something—

**Mr. Martel:** He's being provocative.

**Mr. Deans:** He's trying to be anyway. I want to suggest to the House that the measure of the EMO ought surely to be whether or not it did anything useful in the province—something that either was not being done or could not be done realistically by any other organization already in place. I think it is fair to say that at the inception of EMO much of what was being discussed was far outside the imagination of the majority of people. Not many people ever believed, rightly or wrongly, that there would ever be a major atomic bomb dropped in the middle of Ontario and that we would require emergency measures to cope with it.

**Mr. Nixon:** Or maybe just a minor one.

**Mr. Deans:** That's an interesting point. Yes, that's a good contribution.

Not many people ever have thought that the EMO personnel would be sufficiently well trained to cope with it anyway. I want to tell members about some personal experiences I have had with them because I've had quite a number.

During the period when I was with the fire department in the city of Hamilton, we worked with the Emergency Measures Organization on numerous occasions. It's not whether or not they are well staffed that matters. It's whether or not they are capable of drawing on the community for support when that support is required.

I say to the minister that during the most recent floods on Lake Ontario had it not been for the Emergency Measures Organization the damage and loss which would have been suffered by so many of the people, the residents of the area, would have been far more severe than they actually did have to incur. I don't understand why, given the overall cost, the government decided to move to some other form of providing this same care.

Let me give an example of what happened during those floods I am talking about. We needed sand to put in sandbags in order to hold the water back from flooding the properties of a number of residents. I tried the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and asked them if maybe they could provide a truck filled with sand in order to help those people out. There wasn't even a hope; not even a chance. No sand, no support, nothing from that ministry.

I think that is what worries me about the direction the government is taking. By the time we find someone in one of the ministries who has the responsibility, the authority to make the decision whether or not this is indeed a real emergency; and find someone else who has the authority to bring in a truck driver; and find someone else who has the authority to allocate one load of sand; and find someone else who has the authority to spend a few dollars buying some sandbags, we won't have to worry about the emergency.

**Mr. Roy:** The EMO isn't doing it. It is useless.

**Mr. Deans:** My friend from Ottawa East, who speaks so much and knows so little, doesn't appreciate that the EMO was doing it. Had it not been for the EMO and its efforts in that particular disaster, there would have been no one to provide the necessary



assistance to safeguard those properties and those people. If the member for Ottawa East thinks they were useless he can, of course, stand up at any time and make a speech. He is very good at it—making speeches—though not much of it ever makes sense.

**Mr. Norton:** He is not so good at sandbagging.

**Mr. Deans:** I want to tell the House that the government is making a mistake. There is no co-ordination of emergency services across the Province of Ontario at the moment and the relationship between full-time and volunteer fire services is, to say the least, not the most cordial. Therefore the effort that might be made at any given time to try to co-ordinate all of their efforts causes a number of problems. It was easier, more efficient and operated better, if you will, when there was an outside agency which had some authority to deal with it.

How do my constituents find out who to call when they live in an area served by a volunteer fire department and they have a flood and they want to get someone in to help them hold back that particular flooding? Who do they dial to get this done and who pays for it? That is one of the key points.

[9:15]

**Mr. Eakins:** The local member.

**Mr. Deans:** When you call the local fire department, they don't have either the facilities, the manpower or the money to provide the necessary equipment to do the job. There's a great deal of difficulty—

**Mr. Mancini:** Join the fire department.

**Mr. Deans:** The Liberals are funny about this. They think it's a big joke. My friend should have been there when the water was pouring in and tearing people's houses from the foundations. Then let him tell me that he liked it.

**Mr. Roy:** We don't think that's a joke, but you are a joke. All we said was that EMO was useless.

**Mr. Norton:** It wasn't the tragedy you described.

**Mr. Deans:** Wasn't it?

**Mr. Norton:** You misunderstand me.

**Mr. Deans:** Wasn't it? You should have been there and seen it.

**Mr. Norton:** You don't understand me.

**Mr. Deans:** I don't misunderstand you. I understand you very well. I didn't write the letter to the minister. I wasn't stupid enough.

**Mr. Roy:** You are going to vote against this bill.

**Mr. Deans:** At least when I support something, I stand up in my place and say so.

**Mr. Roy:** You are not afraid of your convictions.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Will the hon. member direct his remarks through the Chair, please?

**Mr. Mancini:** Where were you on the vote today, Elie?

**Mr. Martel:** You guys are always changing your mind.

**Mr. Roy:** And you fellows are always consistent.

**Mr. Deans:** Inconsistency is one of those things my friend would know most about.

What I am suggesting is that if the minister takes an honest look around the Province of Ontario at the variety of minor and major disasters that have occurred over the last few years, he will find that in the greatest number of cases, the EMOs were very much involved in the co-ordination of all of the efforts that were made to try to resolve them. They spent a great deal of time and effort, and the money they spent was tiny compared to the amount of volunteer effort that was able to be generated because of their contacts and because of their continuous efforts.

I suggest to the minister that the government is making a big mistake. I said at the time it was announced that the government was going to abolish it, that it was making a mistake then; and, by doing what it is doing tonight, the government is simply compounding the mistake.

**Mr. Roy:** You are consistent.

**Mr. Deans:** We have to find some alternative way of dealing with it, because the majority of people do not have the ready access to the various ministries that the minister calls lead ministries. They don't know how to contact them. They don't have any conception of whether this government is prepared, not only to act but to pay for the actions of the others who have to act when there is no emergency assistance available.

I think that is where the government is falling down. The difficulty we have had all

the way through the thing is that, even though you try to get some help when it is desperately needed, it is hard to tell who is going to pay for it and therefore the municipalities are not able or willing to take the risk. I think the minister is making a mistake.

**Mr. Roy:** Mr. Speaker, it was with great interest that I listened to the comments by various hon. members about the debate on this particular bill. Some of the members talked about the question of what happens to the equipment; that, I think, is a valid point. When we phase down an institution where we were spending \$3 million a year, I think it's a valid question to ask what is going to happen to the equipment.

I can see the concern of one of my colleagues from Sudbury when he talks about certain communities that do not have certain facilities—

**Mr. Martel:** Sudbury East.

**Mr. Roy:** Sudbury East; but I call him the fellow from Sudbury, because he is known there. The concern of the member was about some of the unorganized communities in his area; but the problem, of course, is that EMO was not going in that direction.

**Mr. Martel:** In Sudbury they were.

**Mr. Roy:** If we felt on this side of the House that EMO was something that could have fulfilled the role that he was talking about, then we would have some concern about voting with the government on this bill. But, in fact, what EMO was doing was not what the hon. member was talking about. It was not even going in that direction.

**Mr. Renwick:** Of course it was.

**Mr. Deans:** That's exactly what they were doing.

**Mr. Roy:** We are saying, why keep an institution which is not serving you and, in fact, an institution which over a number of years has been consistently criticized by members.

**Mr. Martel:** You're wrong again.

**Mr. Roy:** I would say to the member for Wentworth, who has given me an awful lot of abuse here, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Nixon:** He has even said he was inconsistent.

**Hon. B. Stephenson:** He is leaving.

**Mr. Roy:** I'd love that member to stick around because I want to talk about some

of the things he's had to say and about the consistency of that particular member.

**Mr. Nixon:** A shame he is going.

**Mr. Reid:** If we would just have mirrors brought into the chamber he would stay.

**Mr. Roy:** The minister mentioned in his opening comments about members from all sides who, for a number of years, had sort of ridiculed the role of EMO, and with proper reason when we are talking about fallout shelters here and signs saying, "This is the way out of Toronto. In emergency, head in this direction," and all this. I think there was a touch of 1984 or Dr. Strangelove in the whole approach of EMO. Members have talked strongly about it—members on all sides of the House.

I thought I should look in Hansard and see what the members have had to say, and whether the minister was right that over a number of years members had ridiculed, had talked against EMO, and had proposed when the Attorney General was talking about it, to reduce the vote to nothing. I found it most interesting in following the member for Wentworth who talked about consistency and said to my colleagues on this side that we didn't know what we are talking about. I thought I should look at some of the things he had to say over the years about EMO. In opening the legislative debate on July 4, 1968, I'm reading from Hansard on page 5196—

**Mr. Martel:** Don't take it out of context.

**Mr. Roy:** —and I come back to the consistency that the member for Wentworth talked about; how consistent he was always in his approach. I read from page 5196 and here's what he had to say:

I have no little experience in this matter, having been at the fire department and having taken part in some of what was termed to be emergency measures activities. I can truthfully say that this is indeed \$1,633,000 being wasted.

**Mr. Nixon:** And he has experience as a fireman to support it.

**Mr. Reid:** That's what one calls NDP consistency. They can talk out of both sides of their mouths and chew gum at the same time.

Interjections.

**An hon. member:** Tell us more.

**Mr. Roy:** His anger did not limit itself; he went on, if I may assist the members of the House. He said:

If the Attorney General is looking for additional funds for forensic services, then perhaps this might



have been the place to get it. [From EMO] He could have taken it right out of this vote and used it for something of much greater concern, and of much more value to this community.

That's what he said.

**Mr. Ruston:** That's the NDP policy.

**Mr. Reid:** He is very flexible.

**An hon. member:** Where did he go?

**Mr. Reid:** He is out looking in the mirror.

**Mr. Roy:** He went on to say:

The emergency measures organization does not fulfil any useful purpose in this province.

Interjections.

**Mr. Roy:** I wish he was here because he's given me a lot of abuse here. He said I didn't know what I was talking about; I was inconsistent. Mr. Speaker, I must read on.

**An hon. member:** He is out getting his hair curled.

**Mr. Kennedy:** What is the date of that Hansard?

Interjections.

**Mr. Roy:** The member did not limit himself to that. He went on:

It is being run by people who are mostly out of date, out of touch, and basically a haven for people who enjoy playing soldier, fireman and policeman.

**An hon. member:** You said that?

**Mr. Roy:** No, that's the member for Wentworth.

**Mr. Reid:** The member who just spoke.

Interjections.

**Mr. Roy:** The member who was going to vote against this bill.

**Mr. Eakins:** He has changed his mind.

**Mr. Roy:** He went on and said:

I really suggest that this entire portion of the estimates be removed voluntarily rather than have us vote on it. It would show the Attorney General to be a man of foresight and ability, if he would just take it upon himself to tear that part off the bottom of the page and forget it.

Tear EMO out of the estimates: "take it out" he said.

**Mr. Reid:** That's typical of the NDP policy.

**Mr. Roy:** He went on:

And then delegate the money over to the Minister of Trade and Development and use it for housing.

That's what he said. That was back in 1968.

**Mr. Mancini:** Did he say that?

**Mr. Roy:** I was interested in being fair to the member for Wentworth because I'm interested in people who are being consistent as he said that I was not.

So I looked in 1970. I thought I'll look at the debates in 1970—

**Mr. Eakins:** And he changed his mind.

**Mr. Roy:** —to see what the members had to say about it then. I looked at what the member for Wentworth had to say at page 4363 on June 23, 1970, and here's what he said—and this is important because he wants to be consistent and he says it here:

Mr. Chairman, to be consistent with my views of the EMO I wanted to say that I am disappointed to see this contained in this Act. I am convinced, and I spent some time trying to convince the Attorney General (Mr. Wishart) [He was consistent there, yes] that this whole thing is totally unnecessary and to allow for expenditures of funds in this municipality to perpetuate what I consider to be a useless operation—

That's what he said.

**Mr. Reid:** That's typical of the NDP policy.

**Mr. Roy:** He says: "—I consider to be a useless operation seems to me to be ridiculous. I just cannot, for the life of me, see why we would continue it." That's what he said.

**Mr. Mancini:** Did he say that?

**Mr. Roy:** Yes, that's what the man said. And then he went on. The Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) would enjoy this, because he participated in the debate with the member at that time. If I may read on, Mr. Speaker, and I'm very close to being finished, because I want to be consistent in my approach—he went on:

I would rather see the money that might be spent here spent in providing a more adequate fire service, or spent in providing some other service that would be available to people on a full-time basis rather than spent on people doing what they think may well be useful, but in fact something that may never, hopefully, be used; and even if it were to be used, to be totally inadequate when the time came to use it.

That's what he said.

**Mr. Nixon:** He is consistent all right.

**Mr. Roy:** And then the minister—back in 1970 the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. McKeough) was minister of—what was he minister of?

Mr. Nixon: Municipal Affairs?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Roy: Municipal Affairs—said to the member for Wentworth: “I am sure the member would agree that if the job is to be done it had better be done at a regional level rather than at a local area level—”

Mr. Nixon: Even then Darcy was regionalized.

Mr. Roy: And the member for Wentworth interjected and said: “Better not to be done at all.”

That’s what he said.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: So I say to you, Mr. Speaker, having suffered the slings and arrows from that member saying we were inconsistent here, I just want to say to the member he should be consistent. And maybe before he takes a position on the next piece of legislation in this House, he should read his own speeches in Hansard.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Brantford.

Interjections.

An hon. member: Is the member for Brantford in favour of this bill?

Mr. Makarchuk: Mr. Speaker, roused to get involved in this particular debate, and sort of listening to the chortling and the heckling and the inaccuracies and inconsistencies over there, I’d like to join the member in this debate, and I speak here as an individual—

Mr. Haggerty: Oh, as an individual now.

Mr. Makarchuk: —who originally had been very reluctant and has opposed the idea of an Emergency Measures Organization. The reason I opposed it in those years was simply because the organization was designed to convey the idea that war is thinkable—that an atomic war can be fought and, after the atomic war, we will all crawl out of our shelters and we’ll survive and we’ll all be happy and we’ll live for ever after.

Mr. Reid: If we get an NDP government, we will all be living in bomb shelters.

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: That was the intent of that original organization, Mr. Speaker. And let me tell the members of this House that

when the bunker over here, at the corner of University and College St.—

Mr. Reid: That’s the Hydro building.

Mr. Makarchuk: —when that bunker was built, I was one of the individuals who organized the first protest around that bunker. I may have had something to say about the right to defence in this country, because at that time we were attacked by the local police who came from across the street and used force to try and break up that particular demonstration—

Mr. Nixon: You weren’t carrying an NDP sign then. You were carrying another sign.  
[9:30]

Mr. Martel: That’s scurrilous. How could you, Bob?

Mr. Makarchuk: —but that is beside the point, and, Mr. Speaker, I join in this debate as an individual, as I said earlier, who was quite reluctant to support the idea, but I’ve also had the opportunity since that time to look at the role of the Emergency Measures Organization, to be one of the people in a local municipality who sat on the emergency measures board and participated in the events related to the Emergency Measures Organization. I have changed my mind on the basis of the fact that the Emergency Measures Organization in Ontario has also changed its mind. It has redefined its role.

The people at the local level in every municipality looked at it differently. They looked at their world as being one of support to the municipal services, to the police, to the fire department, to be able to confront and act in a reasonable and sensible way to overcome some of the disasters that can and do develop at a municipal level.

One of the things I want to stress to the minister right now, and this seems to be still the case as we discussed lab closings and discussed hospital closings, is the arbitrary and the cavalier manner that that government insists on dealing with agencies that are partially municipal or partially governmental. They still refuse to discuss their programmes. They still refuse to discuss what they intend to do with the municipality.

When the word came down to the municipality at the time I was a member of council telling them the government was going to cut out the Emergency Measures Organization, there was absolutely no consultation and there was no discussion. In other words, the people out there, out of this House, the



people in the province have nothing to say about what goes on in the province.

I have said this before and I am saying this again that the minister should be listening to what is happening and to what the people of Ontario have to say. I think that is one of the major mistakes at this time regarding the Emergency Measures Organization.

What really convinced me about the benefits of the EMO was the 1974 flood in Brantford. At that time I was, as I said earlier, on city council, and about 3 o'clock in the morning the flood knocked out the waterworks in the city. There were a few phone calls and we congregated. There was an Emergency Measures Organization and the emergency measures co-ordinator was active. He was on top of the situation, he got the elected officials together, he got the engineering people together, he got the fire people together, he got the police together and we started some action to see what we could do to try to cope with a situation that developed overnight.

When you have a city of about 70,000 population and your water service is cut off, that could be a major catastrophe; in fact it is. The emergency measures people at that time provided us with communication facilities and they provided us with contacts with other agencies in government. They knew where we could go, whom we could phone and where we could get water tankers. They had an inventory of the equipment that was available at that time. This is the kind of thing that can still happen and will happen in Ontario. As an example, there was the ice storm in Fort Erie, as mentioned by the member for Erie. This is a situation which can still persist and will persist in the province. At this time there is nothing within the municipal organization to take care of these problems.

This is why I feel that the government's desire to eliminate this organization is blind. It is not aware of what is happening out there and it does not really care about what may happen. The minister states that the services are out there. Nobody in the municipality knows that the services are out there. They really don't have anybody to turn to. They know there are so many policemen on duty. When an emergency arises one finds out that the policemen on duty and even the extra ones who can be called in are tied up. The police department is not really involved in co-ordinating and ensuring that the other extra services that are needed in an emergency situation will be there.

The Ontario Provincial Police really is irrelevant in the major communities. In the small communities it may have a role to play but in the larger communities it is really irrelevant. There is very little contact between the two police forces. There is certainly almost no contact between the OPP and the municipalities. So, what happens? Whom do you turn to when you have a serious situation? Those are the kinds of things that concern me and those are the kind of things that concern a lot of other people.

I would like the minister to realize that in addition to what may have happened, is the fact that we are in the position these days to have disasters. There is the matter of industrial disasters that can develop, the matter of chemical spills that can develop and the matter of gases that can be released over communities. It may not happen in some communities but certainly other communities are prone to these kinds of phenomena. Again, there is nobody in the communities at this time sitting, analysing, looking at the possibilities that can develop in the area.

I feel those are some of the roles that can be assigned to a continuing Emergency Measures Organization. One of its responsibilities would be to sit and analyse and find out what can happen, what possible disasters can occur, how they can be coped with if they happen, whom we call on, what equipment we need, where is it located, who has to be contacted, and all the things that have to be done to ensure that people are not injured.

In conclusion, all I can say is that the minister and the government are making a very serious mistake in this case. The federal government is still, I think, providing certain financing. It is not that expensive in relation to the whole budget, in terms of the potential damage that can result in a community because proper precautions are not taken. Under those circumstances I would suggest that the minister withdraw this bill, proceed to the extent of sitting down with the people he has in Emergency Measures Organizations and sitting down with the municipalities, and get away from this idea of planning for the nuclear war which we think we are going to win, or somebody thinks he is going to win.

Get away from showing those films in which, if a bomb goes off, one is supposed to get out of the car and slide into the ditch or climb behind a stone fence or something of this nature. Start looking at the realities of life in Ontario. We have floods, we have disasters, we have fires, we have storms. The

Emergency Measures Organization—a small group of people; a nucleus in every community—can sit there, analyse the possibilities and provide the solutions should these things hit the community. It is on that basis that I oppose the bill, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill. I am quite interested that the debate for the abolition of EMO is even more vehement than the debates used to be against government policy when it persisted in budgeting for EMO year after year. In those days, of course, the vote was always on an amendment in the estimates put forward either by the member for, now, Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) from the Liberals—

**Mr. Deans:** Oh, please; no. He's gone.

**Mr. Nixon:** —or could it have been the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) from the NDP? to reduce the allocation of funds to \$1. Now that the government is deciding to abolish this particular organization, there will evidently be a division again to keep it going.

I fail to see the consistency in this although I must say that the argument that has been put forward by a number of members, including my colleague from Erie, which calls for some kind of a co-ordinated organization in the event of disaster, is one that I am sure the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth) must concern himself with. The flood in the Grand River has been mentioned by the member for Brantford (Mr. Makarchuk) and I know the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney), if he hasn't spoken about it, would be certainly prepared to give information in that vein.

In my own constituency, I can remember being very much impressed indeed at the way the community of Paris turned out to fill the sandbags, and at the way Consolidated Sand and Gravel brought the loads of sand down and dumped them appropriately and the mayor himself was out there directing the operation and working his head off. Of course, the provincial member was supervising. But talk about a community affair!

**Mr. Samis:** That's leadership.

**Mr. Nixon:** It's a great thing when, in the face of a real threat and a very clear threat and the water is rising, the community turns out to save its own property and for its own welfare. A programme that can co-ordinate that has to be a valuable one and one that must certainly concern us all and, very specifically, the Solicitor General, in whose ambit comes this specific responsibility.

The conservation authority was severely criticized for inadequate warnings in that case and not having a sufficiently well-planned programme in the event of a flood, but I believe we have organizations in the field now that, with proper co-ordination, can accomplish this sort of assistance for us.

Mr. Speaker, you may call me to order on this, but I feel I should register a bit of an objection when I hear the various members talk about the tremendous danger from our atomic facilities here in this province. I think there is a very real danger of us confusing the kind of facilities we have with the ones we read about in the United States. The programme is basically different, and I don't think we serve our own community as well as we might when we talk about the very real chance of atomic accidents in that sense. I hope I'm not being unrealistic in this, but it's a matter that has concerned me over a number of years and I just want to register a counter opinion in that regard. Nothing is impossible, but the chances of an atomic accident that might, in fact, spread poison and pollution over the Pickering community or even in a larger area are extremely remote indeed.

**Mr. Breaugh:** But we do have a plan.

**Mr. Nixon:** Extremely remote indeed. I just want to put that forward, sir. I personally am very much in favour of the repeal of the statute which established this organization. I don't want to spend the time talking about their decisions in the early days when there were people, and not all of them irrational, who were deeply concerned about the possibility of what we would do in the event of an atomic attack. It was discussed by rational people and there were very real fears felt.

It did seem a bit ridiculous here in this House, particularly when we read about the elaborate preparations for the governing of the Province of Ontario by the cabinet, who would be taken by special secret routes out of this city to Base Borden, into a bunker which was well equipped with everything—except we found out they didn't have a women's washroom, Margaret, and perhaps you should know about that in case you're continuing to be a bit concerned about what we will do in any particular eventuality. That's one eventuality that they had not prepared for.

**Mr. Roy:** They were all male chauvinists. They haven't changed, they're all male chauvinists.



**Mr. Nixon:** I won't refer to the ingenuity of the minister in that possibility, but there really were some ridiculous expenditures of money at that time which, I think, put the whole EMO organization under a cloud from which it has not yet been able to escape. The federal government did reduce its support. I was interested when the member for Brantford indicated there still was federal support. I thought it had been all but terminated, because at the time when the reduction of the EMO support provincially was announced, as usual the blame was put on a federal initiative.

I thought at the time the federal initiative was a very proper one indeed, just as I believe now that giving a gentle coup de grace to the EMO is a very proper thing for this Legislature to do. This, of course, does not mean that our responsibility is at an end to see that there are adequate organizations, involving the provincial police, municipal police, the conservation authority and other organizations which can be co-ordinated with—what is that phrase? The minister might help me—lead ministry?

**Mr. Renwick:** Lead ministry, yes.

**Mr. Nixon:** Through the lead ministry process, the minister might explain more fully—

**Mr. Renwick:** The Premier (Mr. Davis) understands it.

**Mr. Nixon:** If in fact the Solicitor General is sort of the point of the flying wedge to protect the province, I must express a certain degree of concern. Perhaps he can allay my fears in that connection.

**Mr. Martel:** Lorne Henderson. He's the anchor man.

**Mr. Nixon:** All right. As the man responsible for the police there is no doubt some responsibility that devolves upon him, as it would undoubtedly devolve upon the police forces in the event of these disasters that undoubtedly will happen to us from time to time.

I look forward to voting for the repeal of the statute and perhaps we will get to it later tonight.

[9:45]

**Mr. Renwick:** Mr. Speaker: I would like to speak very briefly on the bill. I want to speak particularly about an ancillary but important matter related to the winding up of the EMO programme because I am extremely concerned about whether or not I can, as a member of the opposition, speaking in oppo-

sition and speaking in a debate with the former acting Solicitor General, rely on the undertakings of the government given in the House.

I want the minister to listen very carefully to the questions which I put to the former member for Niagara Falls, Mr. Clement, who was, at the time of the estimates last year, dealing with the whole question of the cessation of the funding of the Emergency Measures Organization programme.

I refer to page 2019 of the Hansard of May 20, 1975, when I said to the minister, the acting minister at that time:

On this particular vote, as the branch is going to be phased out of existence, how many jobs are going to be displaced and what is going to happen to the people who are presently holding those jobs?

The acting minister at that time replied:

Insofar as individuals are concerned, I believe there are 33 provincial civil servants who will be affected by the phasing out of the programme. They are being assigned to other duties right now, within the government service, and with the co-operation of the Civil Service Commission. Some of them must, through necessity, stay on, in effect, for a week or two past Dec. 31, 1975, but the majority of them are being phased out over the next eight or nine months—between now and the end of the year.

I came back at the acting minister:

Mr. Chairman, on that point, may I simply have the assurance of the minister that no person in the employ of this branch is going to lose his position or his employment, or suffer a stepdown in his employment, because of the phasing out or change in policy of the government about this branch?

The acting minister then replied:

Your hoped-for understanding is correctly stated, Mr. Chairman.

I want to specifically ask the minister and, if necessary, if the answers aren't forthcoming on this second reading debate, it may be necessary, strange as it may sound, to put the bill into committee—assuming, as I now feel it will, that it will pass with the support, the ambiguous support albeit, of the Liberal Party—

**Mr. Roy:** Ambiguous? Consistent.

**Mr. Renwick:** I'd like to know what has happened to the director; what has happened to the two programme managers; what has happened to the one purchasing officer; what has happened to the one communications officer; the one communications technician; the one radiological defence officer; the six field officers, together with the secretarial and supporting staff, which together made up the 33 persons to whom the minister's predecessor referred at the time of the questions which I put to him. I want to know specifically what jobs they are in. What salary classification are they in? Where have they been

relocated within the civil service? And has there been any depreciation in the value of their services in monetary terms as a result of the winding-up of the branch?

This is a matter of immense concern to me because of the pride which the government now takes in its budgetary statement about the reduction in the complement of the Civil Service, indicating, of course, that it's been reduced substantially but that nobody ever gets hurt. We doubt it; we just don't believe it. I want the assurance from this minister, responsible at this time for the complete winding-up and the so-called burial of EMO, to tell me that the undertaking of his predecessor has been carried out to the letter, in the unequivocal way in which it was given to me at the time of those debates.

I'm not going to repeat a number of the arguments that have been put by my colleagues about the reasons for our concern. The distinction is quite clear. The origin of the Emergency Measures Organization was in the days of the sputnik and the overall sense of fear and apprehension which pervaded the North American continent after that particular night in June, 1953. The aftermath and the fall-out influenced so much of what then took place almost for the rest of that particular decade.

We, along with everyone else, realized that the initial impulse and motivation for the Emergency Measures Organization became quite ridiculous over a period of time. We agreed and we spoke about and we voted against on a number of occasions the perpetuation of a federally directed and supported Emergency Measures Organization whose sole and immediate concern was with respect to national defence disasters.

But we have noted over a period of time that this government has never had an adequate public safety programme—a public safety programme that will take into account the immediate response which must be made by people on the spot when a natural disaster occurs or when a man-made type of disaster occurs, such as an environmental disaster or accident of one kind or another.

That has been the thrust of the comments which we have made for some considerable period of time. It culminated in the debates which took place last year when the minister's predecessor announced the cessation of the federal funding and the cessation of the provincial funding, and said it was now up to the municipalities and this beautiful concept of the lead ministry was evolved as a method of response.

We are dissatisfied with the concept of the lead ministry as we understand it. What that

means is that after the event has taken place, after the actual emergency has reached its peak, then somebody is going to say, what can the provincial government now do? It will have been too late to have called in aid the services of the particular lead ministries of the government in response to the immediate emergency which may have occurred.

We are dissatisfied because the people on the spot have no way of knowing. There has been no publicity campaign, there is no co-ordinator available and there is no communications network available where people on the spot can be in instantaneous communication with the government at Queen's Park to say: "We need help, we need it now and we need it immediately." Time and time again, a disaster occurs in the Province of Ontario—and we're fortunate. We have what in disaster terms in other parts of the world can be considered only minor. But when they strike in the Province of Ontario, they are equally as horrendous to the people who are involved as any disaster anywhere.

It's that instantaneous sense of response to which my colleague, the member for Wentworth, was speaking in particular tonight. I mention him only because of the ludicrous attack made upon him by the member for Ottawa East. If there is one thing that the member for Wentworth has the capacity to do, which the member for Ottawa East does not, it is to learn.

**Mr. Nixon:** There is a great defence. What is your excuse?

**Mr. Reid:** If he changes his mind tomorrow, he will have learned a lot more.

**Mr. Roy:** It only took him six years; that is not bad.

**Mr. Reid:** That is the best line in nine years.

**Mr. Ruston:** It will go down in history.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Deans:** Would you mind quoting from my wonderful speech of 1975?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Renwick:** It is only the rules of the House that require me to respond in defence of my colleague, the member for Wentworth. Having spoken, he can't speak again.

**Mr. Ruston:** Hansard doesn't show your smile.



**Mr. Renwick:** If I may repeat, because I don't think the member for Ottawa East quite caught what I said, I said that the capacity of the member for Wentworth that distinguishes him from the member for Ottawa East is his capacity to learn and the member for Ottawa East's incapacity to learn.

**Mr. Roy:** It is getting better all the time.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Renwick:** Given another occupation—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member will return to the principle of the bill.

**Mr. Ruston:** He's never been on it.

**Mr. Roy:** It is a personal attack, is what it is. But I take it in good part.

**Mr. Renwick:** My colleague, the member for Wentworth, spoke in the same estimates debate last year on May 22, 1975, with respect to the question of his experience, which is far greater than the member for Ottawa East's or mine in the field with which we are concerned.

**Mr. Roy:** We weren't talking about that. We were talking about inconsistency.

**Mr. Renwick:** We are talking about his experience and his ability to learn from experience.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Roy:** I am sure he learned tonight. He will be more careful.

**Mr. Ruston:** He has not learned much yet.

**Mr. Renwick:** My colleague, the member for Wentworth, said to the predecessor of the present Solicitor General of the province:

I want to ask you about two things: One, now that you have disbanded EMO, and I realize—how do you propose that the work it had previously done could be undertaken, as it will undoubtedly have to be undertaken, by the volunteer and professional firefighters in most of the areas where there are emergency conditions that arise from time to time?

Then he went on to give the example of the flooding of the shoreline along the shore of Lake Ontario.

A year ago we had extensive flooding in the Hamilton area and down through my riding along Lake Ontario. It would have been impossible for the police or the fire service, whether professional or volunteer, to have undertaken the responsibilities for the work that had to be done and much of that work was done by the EMO.

**Mr. Roy:** What year was that?

**Mr. Renwick:** That was a little less than a year ago.

**Mr. Roy:** We can see the trend starting to develop.

**Mr. Renwick:** In June, 1975; I doubt if you were in the House at the time.

**Mr. Roy:** It started to develop from 1968.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Renwick:** He went on again, a little later on—there were various exchanges between himself and the acting minister at the time. He said:

When I look back on it, it is a wonder the whole damn place wasn't washed away before anybody moved. The EMO people were the only ones I could get to go down right away and begin the process.

Somewhat further on, after a further exchange, my colleague from Wentworth said:

I want to tell you the difference between what you were doing and what you once had. You are talking about people whose primary function is other than in emergency situations. [He was talking about the police and so on] They don't have a great list of volunteer people. They know who will come out at a moment's notice, in the middle of the night and do the work. That was the one thing the EMO were able to do. They were able to co-ordinate those people who had a great deal of civic pride and who had a great sense of their responsibility to other people. They were able to mobilize them very quickly and to get work done. There's a voluntary radio service—

And so on and so forth.

**Mr. Martel:** You should apologize now.

**Mr. Renwick:** That's what my colleague's contribution was a little over a year ago when the cessation of the funding was announced.

**Mr. Martel:** You only gave half the story.

**An hon. member:** Typical Albert.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Renwick:** That expresses what my colleague, the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) has said; what my colleague, the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) has said in very dramatic terms with respect to the unorganized territories of the province—

**Mr. Nixon:** He was opposed to EMO, too.

**Mr. Renwick:** —what my colleague, the member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans), has said; what the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) has said, lacking as he always does the support of his colleagues in the Liberal Party for any statement which he may make which is of considerable sense and weight for those of us who know him.

Interjection.

**Mr. Renwick:** That is what we said time and time again.

**Mr. Nixon:** Once more into the breach.  
[10:00]

**Mr. Renwick:** There is no adequate public safety programme in effect in the Province of Ontario and we think it is wrong for the minister to have disbanded the one available service without having remodelled it and remade it into an adequate public safety programme. Mark my words, the minister is going to have to remodel and remake it. He is going to have to put it together because he is not going to be able to stumble along as he did through March of this year and as he has done on other occasions when these disasters strike without paying a political price in this province, because he has no conception of natural disasters and man-made disasters and he always passes them off, as the judge had to pass off the one in the area of Cambridge, that it was an act of God, as though that absolved the government of any fault or any responsibility.

By the dismantling of the Emergency Measures Organization, the cessation of its funding at a provincial level, the thrusting of the responsibilities on to the municipalities to look after it, and the failure to provide an adequate overall co-ordinating mechanism for the public safety programmes in the Province of Ontario, this government will reap the whirlwind when it happens. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, there is an immense feeling about this kind of disaster, and there's nothing that we know of that this government is prepared to institute to maintain that kind of active enterprise which will permit the co-ordination of the civic virtues of people when disaster strikes a particular area.

There's nothing more difficult or awkward than to be able and willing to respond and to find that there is no adequate leadership or mechanism by which a response can be made, because when disaster strikes everybody starts to look after themselves since they realize that there is no way, by joining together, that they can effectively bring about an adequate response to these severe emergencies which they face.

Because it is a matter of immense concern to me, I revert to the remarks I first made: What has happened to the 33 people? Were they protected, in what way were they protected and what positions do they now have?

**Mr. Martel:** Are you going to apologize, Albert?

**Mr. Roy:** You fellows make St. Paul look like an amateur.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot has the floor.

**Mr. Sweeney:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize that during the very severe flooding in 1974 along the Grand River, the EMO personnel in the Waterloo region, particularly in that part of it in Bridgeport and Cambridge, did perform very heroic and much-needed service, very significant service. That's something, as I say, that needs to be recognized and pointed out.

**Mr. Deans:** Unlike your colleagues, I paid tribute to them.

**Mr. Sweeney:** However, one of the difficulties, even at that time and certainly more recently, was that the personnel had a very difficult time in recognizing just who their boss was and just where they got their funds and their supplies from.

**Mr. Martel:** They couldn't find any atomic bombs.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Sweeney:** One of the changes which has now taken place, and which in my area in particular is definitely a change for the better—and I have confirmed this with the people back in that area—is that the same personnel now are members of the local municipal and regional governments—

**Mr. Wildman:** Are you in favour of regional government?

**Mr. Sweeney:** They are still there, able to perform the services that need to be done, but there is a recognized line of authority at the present time. For that reason, I believe the change that is taking place is, in fact, a change for the better. Going back and repeating what I said, I recognize the excellent, needed and very meritorious work that was done by the EMO people when they were in place. But the time has come to accept the changes and to recognize that the organization which is now in place is in fact a better one.

**Mr. Davidson:** Mr. Speaker, I suspect I can stand here as a new member and not be quoted out of old Hansards.

**Mr. Martel:** Albert will try. He'll look at your campaign speeches.

**Mr. Davidson:** I suspect I can say things which I have very deep feeling for without



being contradicted either by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) or the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney).

**Mr. Samis:** Don't count on the member for Ottawa East, though.

**Mr. Davidson:** I can say these things, because I am going to discuss some of the areas that they themselves have brought to light, namely and primarily the 1974 flood of the Grand Valley watershed—or the Grand River watershed, whichever you care to call it—and who in fact it was that brought some semblance of reality in putting emergency measures into effect.

**Mr. Nixon:** Your problem is that you are regionalized and the regionalized people don't know which way to turn. They didn't know whether it was the regional people or the police force. You were really screwed up.

**Mr. Davidson:** In Cambridge it certainly was not the local municipality and it was not the local police force. I say this in all honesty to my friend from Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, it was as you say the people from the Emergency Measures Organizations—

**Mr. Nixon:** It was the municipality that was all screwed up.

**Mr. Davidson:** —who really dug in, found out what was taking place and applied themselves to the task of making sure that what could have been a far worse disaster than what it was did not occur. It was a disaster resulting in over \$5 million damage alone to the city of Cambridge, but it could have been far worse than that and, gratefully, because of the work they did, there was in fact no loss of life.

**Mr. Roy:** Did you read the old speeches of the member for Wentworth?

**Mr. Samis:** Also our wage and price controls.

**Mr. Davidson:** No, but I will suggest to my friend from Ottawa East that it's far better to change one's mind from 1970 to 1976—

**Mr. Nixon:** That is called learning.

**Mr. Davidson:** —than to change it from Monday to Wednesday in one period of a week.

**Mr. Samis:** From Tuesday to Thursday with tennis in between.

**Mr. Nixon:** Whatever do you mean?

**Mr. Roy:** We are a lot more flexible than you.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order:

**Mr. Davidson:** I'd like to convey to the minister just a couple of words of wisdom if I may and I don't intend to take too long in speaking.

Interjections.

**Mr. Davidson:** A lot of what I would have liked to have said has already been said.

**Mr. Samis:** What tennis does to some people!

**Mr. Davidson:** I cannot agree with the so-called lead ministry profile or whatever it is the minister cares to call it. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, of a little incident that has happened, and I'm quite at odds to wonder as to why my friend from Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) didn't raise this.

In 1974, following the flood, the Grand River Conservation Authority through the Minister of Natural Resources said to everyone around that watershed, including Brantford and the Kitchener area, the Bridgeport area, Cambridge, that never again would such a situation occur without adequate warning being provided to the municipalities along the Grand River.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let me suggest this to you, that approximately three weeks ago without warning the municipalities of New Hamburg and Ayr were flooded. Questions were raised by the mayors of both communities, by the mayor of the city of Cambridge and by the regional councillors and officials as to how such a thing could possibly happen. The answer they got after two years following the flood was that they haven't as yet hooked up the so-called warning system.

I would like to suggest if that is the speed under which the ministries of the government operate, then if it does away with this organization and we are faced with the same situation in which we were faced in 1974, we may not again have the opportunity of coming out of a situation without loss of life and we might certainly have far more of a loss—at least in one community—than \$5 million.

**Mr. Wildman:** I rise in opposition to the repeal of the Emergency Measures Act but not in support of the Emergency Measures Organization as an anachronism set up to fight the straw man of nuclear attack or whatever, but basically because I'm opposed

to or have a lot of questions about the concept of lead ministries.

In my area there is a large number of unorganized townships as was referred to by the member for Sudbury East. There isn't even any municipal organization to co-ordinate any kind of approach to an emergency situation. I think back to Nov. 11 last fall when there was a severe storm all around the Great Lakes. There were large areas which were damaged along the eastern shore of Lake Superior and the north shore of Lake Huron. Along the eastern shore of Lake Superior where there are very few organized municipalities there was a lot of damage done. When people appealed to me for help I contacted the Minister of Natural Resources, who I believe is in one of the lead ministries that the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth) referred to, and he replied to me after quite a long time to the effect that the municipality in the area must apply to the minister to find out what kind of aid they can receive in a disaster. I then pointed out to the minister that there is no municipality in the area to apply, and in that case he said unless the government itself in Toronto—here, in Toronto—decided to declare the area a disaster area then nothing could be done.

I submit that that is going to take a little bit of time and really is not the kind of response that is necessary when people are facing large losses because of flood or storm. In that case there were areas along the shoreline where large amounts of soil were eroded away at a great loss to the property owners. Commercial fishermen lost their boats and so on, and to this day nothing has been done for those people; not one thing. Despite repeated letters to the Minister of Natural Resources on my part, there has just been nothing done.

I question whether lead ministries are really a way of handling an emergency in an unorganized territory. I can also point out many other examples, but there is one other example that comes immediately to mind. A few years ago in an unorganized township near Sturgeon Falls, just outside of the organized municipality, there was a fire. The fire department from Sturgeon Falls went to the border of the organized municipality but did not go across, because they didn't want to set a precedent. Natural Resources wasn't available to fight that fire so the fire burned the house down. Natural Resources has fire equipment but its main responsibility, obviously, is to protect against forest fires and if the equipment is occupied in fighting a forest fire then the people living in an unorganized municipality are not protected.

They just have to get out of the house and let it burn.

Also, even if we look at areas that are not unorganized, if we look at small municipalities—and there are a large number in Algoma—which have a low tax base, they just don't have the kind of money which is necessary to provide the equipment and the expertise necessary in an emergency.

For instance, volunteer fire departments in small municipalities cannot receive any grant at all from the provincial government for fire equipment. They have to debenture and they have to pay for it out of the tax revenue, and if they don't have the tax base necessary they just go without.

I understand that last fall the Ontario Fire Marshal was studying the problem and was prepared to recommend that the government institute grants through the Solicitor General's ministry for small municipalities for fire equipment, but because of the restraint programme that has gone by the wayside.

**Mr. Haggerty:** In 1965 that was available.

**Mr. Wildman:** That's right. What are the small municipalities to do? They haven't been able to get grants since the early 1960s. They can't provide the protection that's taken for granted in large municipalities, and with the withdrawal of the Emergency Measures Organization there isn't any organization at all which might be expanded or developed or moved into these areas which might co-ordinate the equipment necessary and the personnel necessary to cover large areas to face emergencies in time of disaster. I just question the whole concept of lead ministries and the idea that other agencies can handle it. [10:15]

Even if we look at the OPP, in my area in the north there are large numbers of people who get lost during the hunting season and the Ontario Provincial Police, of course, are responsible along with other agencies—volunteer agencies usually, and the federal government's air rescue—to search for these people in the bush. They just don't have the personnel but at the same time they don't have the right, or apparently are not given the right, to train local agencies to do that. The local agency has to be organized and request aid from the OPP.

I wonder if perhaps the Emergency Measures or some other organization like that, instead of being abolished, might be expanded to handle those kinds of emergencies and to provide for the needs that are obviously there and which are not being met right now. The MNR just doesn't seem



equipped to handle the emergencies as suggested by the minister, and the other agencies, especially in small municipalities, just do not have the personnel, the capital or the expertise. For that reason I will be voting against the bill.

**Mr. Samis:** Mr. Speaker, I will keep my remarks rather brief considering most of the arguments have been made on this subject. I think most of us over on this side realize that the basic reasons for the EMO have changed over the years. We accept that the whole nuclear threat and the scare which probably developed at that time and accelerated the growth and development of the EMO has probably subsided to the extent that if we judge it purely on that basis it wouldn't be justified. I think there still is a limited role for the EMO to justify its continuance, possibly in a reorganized, possibly even in a more limited role.

My colleague from Algoma has already outlined, in terms of unorganized communities, the value it could serve and my colleague from Oshawa used the example of what happened on the Ottawa River recently. They relied on the army and if anyone is familiar with that particular incident, obviously it was useless because of the instantaneous nature of the disaster and the implicit unpredictability of the whole thing.

I think the whole question of lead ministries leaves a lot of people in small communities in great doubt as to the appropriate channels and the quickness and the responsiveness of a bureaucracy in this particular situation.

I would almost be willing to accept the government's bill in the context of restraint if we had the restraint equally applied across the province. When I see a government closing down hospitals, restricting social services and dissolving the EMO, I can accept that if the restraints were applied equally; but when I see the giveaway to the big corporations, the \$400 million tax and how that is still being continued even this year when we see the OHIP premiums going up—the big boys, many of whom are American, are still getting their tax giveaway—obviously there is an inequity in this whole restraint policy. I think, for the amount of money involved, the security and the limited role in the case of an emergency still justify the existence of the EMO. On that basis, I would oppose the bill.

**Mr. Godfrey:** Mr. Speaker, I view this bill as another example of fanfare and foulup which characterizes the action of the party across the floor. It was announced with a

great fanfare, trumpeted as being the answer to all of our problems, and now ends in a typical foulup which characterizes what went with Krauss-Maffei, the Niagara Escarpment, the Toronto-centred plan and the North Pickering development. All of them were highly bruited, only to be pulled back into the kennel after a suitable period of time.

The minister says the actions of the EMO will be substituted for by the OPP. I ask where is the budget by which the OPP can take over the duties the EMO is carrying out? I point out to him that at present in my riding we have 18,000 acres of land which is a federal enclave in the midst of Ontario. This land is not policed by the Mounties as normally federal land is. Barns are burned. We have difficulty getting fire protection. We are second-class or third-class when the firereels go out. Houses are destroyed. We are unable to call on aid in emergencies in which the EMO would be a factor.

The railroad crossings are even marked as private. When one drives down the road, one comes to a sign which does not say, "Careful. Railroad crossing." It says, "Private. Railroad crossing. Cross at your own risk." Surely here is an area where emergencies can happen at any time and where the EMO can be fitted in.

There is a serious question as to whether automobile or other types of insurance apply when one rides on these federally owned lands which are no longer under the jurisdiction of anyone in the area. Indeed, this is a time of disaster out in that area and I submit we do need the Emergency Measures Organization in a new and fuller role to help us.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for York South.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, I had no intention of entering substantively or at all into this debate, but there was one comment of the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) which intrigued me. He rather sotto voce, in his support of this bill to eliminate EMO, conceded that there was need for some sort of a co-ordinating body. Then he said to the Solicitor General, "I hope he will address himself to this problem."

Now, I'm rather cheesed with the consistency of a position in which he concedes that there is need for co-ordination, he acknowledged that in its new approach of recent years EMO has emerged into that co-ordinating role—

Interjection.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Oh, you won't, eh? Well, others have. And indeed that it has the capacity to provide that co-ordinating role; and the consistency of the hon. member in asking for the Solicitor General to give some thought to this matter of concern, when in fact he's going to create a vacuum, rather intrigues me.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Waterloo North.

**Mr. Good:** Mr. Speaker, I rise only for one purpose and that is to set the record straight on some of the fabrications that have been put forth here tonight by members of the NDP. The member for Brantford (Mr. Makarchuk) had indicated that the first warning given to the city of Brantford was by the EMO at 3 in the morning. Let me read from the "Report of the Royal Commission Inquiry into the Grand River Flood, 1974":

Mr. Middleton, the city engineer of Brantford, received the first call from Mr. Stevens of the Grand River Conservation Authority at approximately 10 p.m. on May 16. Mr. Stevens advised that in Brantford there would be no serious risk during the night but that there would be flooding the next day.

Mr. Stevens advised that he would call back in the morning—

**Mr. Roy:** What's wrong with your research over there?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Brantford rises on a point of order.

**Mr. Roy:** What's wrong with your research?

**Mr. Makarchuk:** At no time, Mr. Speaker, did I discuss the times that the engineer, the city police or anybody in Brantford received the warning from the Grand River Conservation Authority. I'm not sure what the member is talking about.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Waterloo North will continue.

**Mr. Good:** I would like to proceed. If Hansard proves that I am wrong I will retract what I said, but I distinctly remember the member for Brantford stating that it was 3 in the morning when EMO first warned the city officials in Brantford.

**Mr. Markarchuk:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Roy:** That's what I heard.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member rises on a point of order.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Mr. Speaker, once again I reiterate what I said, that at no time did I discuss any of the times or warnings that were received by the city of Brantford in my speech this evening. I would suggest to the member, once again, that he either retracts the statement or talks about something he knows something about.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

**Mr. Good:** I will proceed to read from the report.

**Mr. Roy:** We'll look at Hansard tomorrow.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Do that.

**Mr. Deans:** Read it all.

**Mr. Good:** It says:

Following the call from Mr. Stevens, Mr. Middleton took action. He testified he took all flood warning as a serious matter. He immediately called his work superintendent to arrange for the night duty men to check the river level. At 9 a.m. the next morning, Mr. Middleton, the city engineer, met with Mayor Bowen and the chief of police and advised them that flooding was to be expected. At 9:30 a.m. the Grand River Conservation called again and advised Mr. Middleton—

**Mr. Martel:** You have convinced us you can read. Now what are you trying to prove?

**Mr. Good:** I continue:

Mr. Middleton, at 10 a.m., called the Grand River Conservation Authority and was advised by Mr. Kao that the flooding would be severe and the river would rise 17 ft, more or less.

The point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, is simply this: That the NDP can fabricate and get emotional about any subject to suit their own purposes. I'm not discounting for one minute that the EMO did not play a part in the flooding along the Grand River, but I do want to make this one point: It was 10 o'clock the next morning—

**Mr. Davidson:** Does the member agree fully with that report?



**Mr. Good:** —that during the same period the Brantford police received a message from Mr. Roberts of the EMO, stating "Probable flood expected Brantford." Now, the report goes on to show and to explain that the advance warning in the city of Brantford was taken seriously by the city officials. The advance warning given to the city of Cambridge was not taken seriously by the city officials and no one was notified.

The point I really want to make is simply this, the member for Brantford clearly stated that it was the EMO who first warned the officials in the city of Brantford—

**Mr. Makarchuk:** On a point of order.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Makarchuk:** Mr. Speaker, tonight in the House, as I said earlier—and I thought the member had the decency to accept my explanation—at no time did I discuss the hours, the appearance or anything about the warning that was received from the Grand River Conservation Authority by the city of Brantford. I am well acquainted with the circumstances of that case, and what the member is reading in Judge Leach's report is probably accurate, although I question some of Judge Leach's findings. But the point the member attributed to me is something that I did not say, and I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the member retract those comments.

**Mr. Renwick:** Withdraw or resign.

Interjections.

**Mr. Roy:** We will wait for Hansard.

**Mr. Ferrier:** Mr. Speaker, I only want to say a brief word about EMO. I remember back in the days—

**Mr. Nixon:** This will be good.

**Mr. Ferrier:** The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk—

Interjection.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Ferrier:** Let the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk take notice.

**Mr. Reid:** Which side are you on?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Ferrier:** There was a motion in this House to abolish the EMO, and at that time

I got up and spoke in favour of the work that EMO had done in the Chapleau fire.

**Mr. Nixon:** And Deans spoke against it.

**Mr. Ferrier:** It had had a very beneficial effect and had co-ordinated activities in the city of Timmins and environs to provide emergency assistance for those people. Very great work was done in those days.

Having spoken at that time of the great work that EMO had done and then to vote against it was something which was very unusual, I suppose, and I had to do some fancy footwork in the election.

Tonight, I would say to my friend from Brant-Oxford-Norfolk that I think that EMO did fulfil a function, even though a lot of Tories seem to be the ones who were the personnel in charge. That being as it may, I think it did fulfil a useful role back in 1970 or whenever it was I said it was good; now I am going to vote in favour of its retention, and I might bring about some redemption of the fall I made back there in those days.

**Mr. Nixon:** Never give up on that redemption.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does any other hon. member wish to take part in the debate?

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I rise to bring to your attention that while it's true what the member for Ottawa East said with regard to—

**Mr. Reid:** No point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will listen to the hon. member and then decide on the point of order.

**Mr. Deans:** Thank you. While it's true what the member for Ottawa East quotes as having been attributed to me in the years 1967, 1968, 1969 and, I believe, in 1970, I decided on the basis of the work that was then being done by the EMO in 1973, 1974 and 1975 that they were worthwhile.

**Mr. Reid:** Very generous of you.

**Mr. Nixon:** Very good.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does any other hon. member wish to take part in the debate? The hon. minister.

**Hon. Mr. MacBeth:** Mr. Speaker, I hardly thought that such a simple little death notice would bring about this kind of debate. I think it deserves more than a half a minute reply.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, may I indicate that tomorrow we will carry on with this discussion and then we will have a more positive point of view expressed tomorrow by

the Solicitor General. Following that, we will carry on with the legislation as set out in the order paper.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.



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